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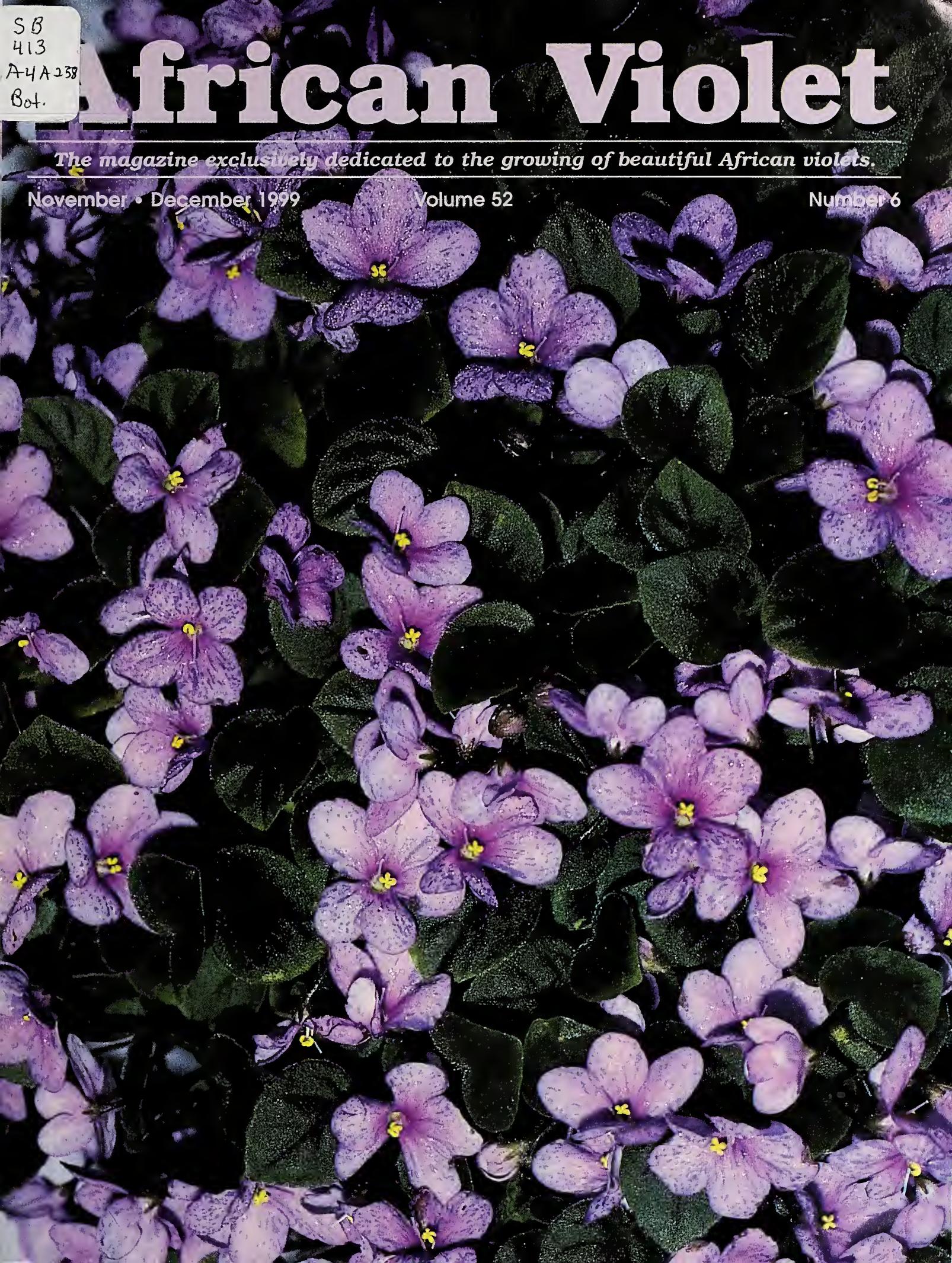
African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

November • December 1999

Volume 52

Number 6



AVSA Business

INFORMATION FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY TO ENSURE GOOD SERVICE. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM, SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE EFFECTIVE OCT. 1, 1999:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$20, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$22.50; Commercial USA \$32; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$22.00; Council, State or Region - \$22.00.

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AFFILIATES: For information on shows, awards or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 17415 Charter Pines Dr., Monument, CO 80132. E-mail clubs@avsa.org

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: Billie Golla, 10 Scott Dr. N, Broomfield, CO 80020-1138.

AVSA OFFICE: Jenny Daugereau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@avsa.org

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17235 N. 106th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85373-1616.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Kent Stork, 2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Dr., Olathe, KS 66062-5004.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Linda Owens, Convention Director, 1762 Stemwood Drive, Columbus, OH 43228. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Omaha, NE - May 21-28, 2000, Chicago, IL - May 27- June 3, 2001.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$9.00 per 100; 500 to 900 \$8.00 per 100; 1000 and over - \$6.00 per 100.

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JUDGE'S DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of \$15 is required.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Carolyn Burr, 910 Almond Hill Ct, Manchester, MO 63021-7004. Email carolnburr@aol.com.

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ARTICLES BY MEMBERS AND COLUMNISTS: Send to Editor.

COMING EVENTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles, Columnists and Coming Events: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

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"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512 and Dorothy Kosowsky, 712 Cunningham Dr., Whittier, CA 90601.

MASTER VARIETY LIST:

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713.

MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES: 1998 MVL - \$12.50. Updates (when available) - \$5.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE: Windows version - \$12.50. Updates \$5.00.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

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PLANT REGISTRATION: Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

NEW UPDATED HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS, EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES

1998 Handbook

\$10.25 (postpaid)

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African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

November • December

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Rob's Lilli Pilli

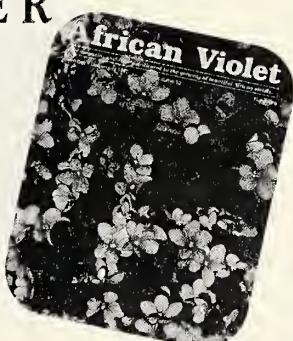
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Bev Promersberger

Hybridized by:

R. Robinson

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.



Season's Greetings

May you have a wonderful
holiday season with all of the trimmings.

Plenty of hope and happiness,
love and laughter, family and friends,
at this time and forever after.

Happy Holidays!

Your AVSA Officers
and Staff

Angie Gary

Meredith

Sue

Ruth

Jerry Bonnie Bill

Joanna

Linda

Janet
Esther

Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702
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As you know from reading the African Violet Magazine, many of our articles come from AVSA Affiliated Club publications. If I'm not on your club's mailing list, please include me! Although I do have many writers who submit individually to the AVM, I have found the club publications to be a very valuable source of violet growing information.

When AVSA was founded and the decision made to produce a magazine, it was with the intent to give members a forum in which to share the latest news of the African violet world, growing techniques and new ideas. These are still the goals of this publication. Please send me your suggestions for a topic to be covered, an article from a past issue that you feel would be helpful to new growers, or an article about your own growing techniques.

I recently heard from **Paul Sorano** of Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses. Paul is now available to speak to clubs about the history of the greenhouses that were founded by his grandfather, the late Lyndon Lyon. If you would like to invite Paul to speak to your club, contact him at (315) 429-8291, or by e-mail at www.lyndonlyon.com.

Our friends at the Violet House, **Bebe** and **Bill Edwards**, have over-ordered terra cotta Oyama Planters in the 4" and 5" sizes. Bebe has 200-300 extra planters and will make special

arrangements to clubs who want to order them in quantity. Give Bebe a call at (800) 377-8466.

Our Thinking Small columnist, **Pat Richards**, talks about growing small trailers in this issue. See for yourself that this lady knows what she's talking about! Pat's plant of 'Marion's Enchanted Trail', which won the award for best Trailer at this year's national show is featured on page 32.

Thanks to **Floyd Lawson** for his work on compiling the 1999 Best Varieties List on page 51 of this issue. Consult this list when planning your spring purchases.

As many of you know, our convention dates have been changed. The Omaha Convention is now scheduled from May 21-28, 2000. The January/February AVM will contain your "purple pages", with all of the information you'll need to plan your trip to the Omaha Convention.

With the holidays upon us, AVSA is offering new gift ideas. On page 40 see the Folio Art Glass collection, offered exclusively through AVSA. These unique pieces are serviceable items, as well as unusual collector pieces. Though they will be shipped to you from the AVSA office, they must first be ordered and shipped to Beaumont. Please allow 4-8 weeks for delivery.

Happy Holidays!

In September 21, a strong earthquake struck the center of Taiwan. From the news, we saw that houses were destroyed, people were injured or buried. There were more than 2000 people killed in this earthquake. Taiwanese people were very thankful for the help that was offered very soon from all over the world. I personally want to thank everyone who showed concern for my family, friends, and their fellow violet growers in Taiwan by phone calls, e-mails, or letters. It is fortunate that none of my family, friends, or acquaintances were injured or killed; though they suffered different degrees of property damage. I feel deeply sorry for those who lost their lives, families, or property. It will take at least 3 to 5 years to reconstruct the island. If anyone wants to offer help in anyway, please check www.yahoo.com or www.cina.com to learn about Taiwan's earthquake.

Olive Ma Robinson

Dear Ruth,

My name is Joan Reed and I am the new President of Lower Bucks Co., PA. Chapter of the African Violet Society. I first want to inform you that our Club will be celebrating our 25 Anniversary in the Year 2000. It's going to be a very exciting year for us. I am very proud of our Club. We went through a rough year with illness and loss of memberships but we pulled ourselves out and believe we are survivors. I'm sure you know that Bill Lyons is the Cornerstone of our Club. He has worked so hard over the years to make us what we are today; that is, a very close and strong group. Over the years our Club has decreased in size, but we have never decreased in enthusiasm. We have grown in knowledge and we all work very hard through the year to put on a beautiful show.

Joan Reed, President
AVS of Lower Bucks County

Office Update



Jenny Daugereau • AVSA Office Administrative Coordinator

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Christmas will be here before we know it and AVSA can help with some of your Christmas shopping. A membership to AVSA is a gift that will last all year long. I'm sure we all know someone who can benefit from all the wonderful information we have to offer in each and every issue of the magazine. Please notice the beautiful Folio Art Glass on page 40. These would make wonderful gifts. Circle the ones you want and add them to your wish list for Christmas. Outgoing Affiliate Presidents would really be pleased with one of these fused glass plates or bowls. Help AVSA and make someone happy when you make this Art Glass a gift.

Tammi, our full time AVSA office secretary is out on maternity leave. Her daughter, Cora Ashton was born on Sept. 16th. She weighed 8 lbs. and 14 oz. and was 21 inches long. With Tammi out we have added another part time secretary to help out. Her name is Angie. Joanna and Angie will be here to help you when you call. Joanna, Tammi and I wish you all a nice Thanksgiving and the Merriest Christmas.

Please add the affiliates listed below to your insert from the Sept. Issue of the magazine. They were inadvertently left out of the insert. Also make note of the correction for Judges.

Affiliates

Sundowners AVC
President Darlene Shillinglaw
5869 Country RD K
Waunakee, WI 53597-9412

West Texas AVS

President Marge Savage
2804 Stutz Dr.
Midland, TX 79705-4928

New York City AVS

President Gregory Phillips
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Billings Bloomers AVS

President Betty Teigen
2033 Ave. D
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Heartland AV and Gesneriad Society

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Wickliffe, KY 42087-9000

Gesneriad AV Club

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Bellflower AVS

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Metropolitan Regional Council of AV Judges

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AVS of Greater Montreal

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Point Claire PQ H93 3J1
Canada

Lafayette AVC

President Nora Cage
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2030 Youngblood Dr.
Hephzibah, GA 30815-4452
^x Pierce Cumpton
219 Sunset Dr.
Warner Robins, GA 31088-4170
^s Rodney Barnett
508 W. Broadway
Red Lion, PA 17356-1910

Library Bulletin

Two new additions to the AVSA library are now available

195L "African Violet Society of Canada Convention & Show, Toronto, Canada, 1999" - 80 slides of beautiful photography highlight this show in which 28 of the top awards were won by men (way to go, guys!)

196L "Basic African Violet Care" - 25 minute video by Don Geiss is a good introduction to growing African Violets.

For Beginners



Kent & Joyce Stork
2501 East 23rd Ave. S
Fremont, NE 68025

WINDOW GROWING VIOLETS

A number of years ago AVSA did a research study of the membership and discovered that 45% of you grow violets at the window. The study went on to find that 86% grew African violets under fluorescent lights, which would seem to indicate that even those who use artificial light often enjoy having violets on their windowsills.

Top competitive growers insist on using fluorescent light to achieve the perfection of growth and flowering required to win shows. Nonetheless, there is a special charm in seeing violets growing on a windowsill. How often have you seen artwork that included a window sill violet? It gives a sense of home, of innocence, and of freshness. It may not be perfect, but it makes us feel good. Window-grown violets deserve their place in glory!

CHOOSING A WINDOW

The real secret to successful window growing is the window itself! Violets prefer to have twelve hours of relatively bright light each day (followed by a period of relative darkness). Not all windows offer this!

Look for a window that is relatively large, allowing lots of light to enter the room. African violets need plenty of bright light in order to grow and bloom well.

Even though bright light is desirable, direct sunlight is usually not preferred. Violets will tolerate only some direct light during the day. In the wilds of Africa, the species of our favorite plant grew under a canopy of overhanging trees which filtered the light. Many window growers find that sheer curtains do wonders in subtly limiting the light without blocking it.

Also consider the temperature at the window. Even with modern air conditioning and heating, it is possible for window temperatures to vary by more than ten degrees from the temperatures in the rest of the room. Steps must be taken to correct situations where a cold draft seeps in during colder

months, or where late afternoon sun beats in during the summer.

The window selected should not be one that is often opened to outside air, if possible. Several insect enemies of violets are able to travel into a home on an air current. Window screens offer very little protection because the insects are so small. No amount of chemical treatment will protect violets if new populations of bugs can enter the room with every breeze.

Look also for the location of heating and air conditioning ducts. Outlets that allow dry air to blow across violets will cause flower buds to wither and die as they are forming causing your plants to remain out of bloom.

Registers that are directly above or below the windows or within a few feet, should either be closed or modified with a cover to direct the air away from your plants.

Be sure your window is convenient for using as a growing area. Counter spaces, living room or dining areas with well-placed shelves, or old-fashioned broad window sills usually work well. High traffic areas may not be as safe for plants.

While these guidelines will help you find the best window, don't give up the hobby if no perfect window is present. Most windows offer at least somewhat brighter light than is usually available in interior spaces. That brighter light is the key to getting violets to flower. The plants may thrive in one window in particular but will probably survive (with proper care) in any window that is available.

FINE TUNING THE LOCATION

Once a good window is chosen, it becomes important to watch how individual violets react in the location. Some hybrids (often those with light green foliage or with very little red in the underside of leaves) will exhibit symptoms of bleaching when grown in very bright windows. This happens because the plentiful light accelerates photosynthesis in the leaves causing the chlorophyll to be depleted. Usually the sup-

ply is refreshed during the nighttime hours when photosynthesis slows. If severe depletion occurs, however, the leaves will lose the vivid green color and perpetually look bleached or faded. These plants need to be set a little further away or off to the side somewhat.

Some hybrids will react to too much light by hugging lower leaves to the sides of the pot. This is not the same as wilting! in this case, leaves will be quite sturdy but stubbornly growing downward. Ideally leaves should develop in a flat wheel that extends horizontally from the center crown. Move these umbrella-shaped plants to a slightly dimmer area and leaves should relax upward. (Please note that some varieties have this habit as a genetic trait. If dimmer light doesn't improve the shape, accept the shape as inevitable.)

Some violets will "reach up" in window light, especially if the light is not quite bright enough. When mature leaves begin to stretch upward, it is an indication that violets are wanting more light than is available. Some varieties are more light-hungry than others! Move these plants as near the window as possible, in the very brightest spot.

Most violets will begin to tip or lean toward the glass even in the best windows. Plants are quite good at positioning themselves to receive the maximum light available. As time passes, however, the leaning may become so exaggerated that the plants are apt to tip over easily. To avoid this, consistently turn the plants to expose all sides to the brighter light. We know one grower who would begin each day by turning each plant in his office window a quarter turn. Other growers with less time might choose to turn plants with each watering.

WATERING AT THE WINDOW

Window-grown plants will not need unusual watering techniques, except that they may dry out slightly faster than plants grown under fluorescent lights. This is because of temperature changes and dryer air that is more likely to be present at windows.

Generally, if plants are in plastic pots, they will do well with a thorough top watering, once a week. "Thorough" means that water is applied until it runs through the pot and into the saucer, followed by a 30-minute stand in that saucer full of water. The saucer must then be emptied so that the plant does not stand in water any longer.

Alternatively, the saucer may be filled so that water is soaked up from the bottom. If the water is completely absorbed in minutes, more water should be added. Again, the saucer should be emptied of any remaining water after a half an hour.

If plants are being grown in clay pots (which have a great look in window sills), you must water more frequently, probably twice a week, using the same methods as above.

Because violets grown at windows can vary in temperature from summer to winter, they are more prone to damage from incorrect water temperatures. The water used must always be within about ten degrees Fahrenheit of the room

temperature (and especially the temperature of the roots in the pot). If violets are sitting in a cold window, warm water can damage them (leaving small circles with a web-like pattern on the leaves). If they are hot on a late summer afternoon, cold water will hurt them as well. Draw water into a jug in advance and store it fairly near the plants. Using this method will guarantee a correct temperature.

Be sure to add some fertilizer to that jug of water, and you will be feeding your plants with every watering. Fertilizer is stable, so the water will keep for several days or weeks without spoiling. Follow label directions carefully, being especially careful not to use too much!

Be especially careful when watering to avoid getting droplets of water on the leaves or in the center of the crown. Any direct sunlight will magnify as it travels through the water droplet leaving a distinct circle of damage on the surface of the leaf. If you do spill, simply blot the leaf dry and move the plant out of the window for a short time.

Because air can be usually dry near the window, especially if there are drafts, you may wish to use a constant-water method such as wicking. This cannot be done with clay pots! If you wish to have a more decorative look than plastic, we would recommend glazed self-watering pots especially designed for violets. The additional advantage of constant water is the increased humidity around your plants which will encourage blooming.

REPOTTING

The downside of window growing is that your violets will need to be repotted more frequently if you want a well-groomed look.

As a violet matures, outside leaves age and sag, needing to be removed. The result of grooming off old leaves is the appearance of an unattractive "neck" or stem under the bottom row of leaves. This happens to all violets, but it seems to happen faster in the window where temperatures tend to be less consistent and as a consequence the plant tissue isn't as sturdy. This means that leaves tend to have softer stems and tend to age fairly quickly.

This neck can be buried easily. First strip away any slightly older and fading leaves, then remove the plant from the pot, cutting away some from the bottom of the rootball, and resetting the plant in the original pot. Fill in with fresh soil around the top, burying the neck. You will have more success if you gently scrape off the dried scab on the neck before burying it so that new roots can develop more quickly. It also pays to be prompt! Repot as soon as any neck is visible and you will not need to cut off as many roots! It is also much less stressful to your plant.

Because window-grown plants are prone to tipping or leaning toward the light, you may need to repot to bury a very crooked stem. In some cases, the crook will be so extreme that you will not be able to level the plant and bury the neck with any roots left attached. In this case, cut away all but an inch

of the stem below the leaves. Scrape the sides of the stem as described above. Next prepare a pot by filling it with fresh moist soil that has lots of porous materials that allow air to remain in the soil. Gently push the violet stem into the center of the pot, being sure that the leaves are level with the sides of the pot. Do not pack the soil down or even press it!! The tiny new roots must have air! Water your plant thoroughly, but allow all excess water to drain off. Then place it in a closed environment (such a sealed plastic bag) so that the plant will have ample humidity to support the leaves until roots are formed. Most plants will be rooted in about a month and be ready to leave the closed container and return to the window. In the meantime, keep it well away from any direct sunlight that could cause overheating.

SOME VIOLETS PREFER WINDOWS

While many violets seem to bloom and grow more consistently with fluorescent lights, there are some that seem to prefer natural light. They grow quickly and bloom freely there.

Many of the species, the original plants that were discovered in Africa, thrive in windows and even bloom better because of temperature variations. The foliage of species plants is more likely to maintain a rich green color in the window, without the bleaching out that is often seen when these plants are grown under lights. Species also tend to have a less perfect form or pattern of growth no matter where they grow, so the irregularities of growth at the window are less noticeable or annoying.

Trailing varieties also seem to enjoy natural sunlight and

are very attractive in hanging containers near a window. Again, the form expected from trailers is often less perfect than what is expected from single crown violets. Few will fault a beautiful trailer because one crown is larger, trails down further, or is more heavily in bloom than the other crowns. The otherwise distressing habit of crowns leaning toward the window actually enhances trailers when they are hanging in pots above eye level. The crowns tip to the side of the pot showing off flowers and foliage. Since hanging plants are usually being grown too high to look into the center of the pot, exposed stems from older crowns are not immediately visible. These plants would not do well if judged in a competitive show, but they are certainly beautiful to see in the window!

THERE ARE LOTS OF REASONS TO GROW AT THE WINDOW

If 45% of the membership of this society is growing at the window, imagine how many in the general public are using that method. Violets grown this way will seldom win prizes at major shows, but they are a delight. A violet in your kitchen window may make it worth the effort to wash dishes. A violet in your living area gives a wonderfully homey look. Violets thriving in bay-windows make long winters seem bearable. Surely violets became such a popular houseplant because they do so well in windows!

Window growing is inexpensive, and available to almost everyone. A friend shares a violet, and it gets set in a window. It requires minimal care to survive and only slightly better care to thrive. And then it blooms. What a source of pride, and it is right there for the neighbors to see!

AVSA Building and Maintenance Fund

Helen Blanton • 622 Riverside Drive • St. Charles, MO 63304

Donations received from JUNE 1, 1999 - JULY 31, 1999

Antonia De Mattio, Wheat Ridge, CO	\$10.00	Janet Riemer, Pennington, NJ	\$25.00	Spring Branch African Violet Club, Houston, TX	\$25.00
Beverly Volk, Allentown, PA	2.00	<i>in memory of L. T. Ozio, Jr.</i>		Susan J. Fraley, Albany, NY	5.00
Sugarloaf Mountain Violet Society, Frederick, MD	1113.43	Mrs. Byron Turner, Dallas, TX	30.00	James H. Gritton, Des Moines, IA	2.00
<i>club disbanded</i>		<i>in memory of Sarah Wilson, mother of Paula Foster</i>		David A. Lass, Nahant, MA	50.00
Carol Smith, New York, NY	2.00	Pleasant Hill African Violets, Brenham, TX .	20.00	<i>in memory of L. T. Ozio, Jr.</i>	
Dorothy C. Maruscak, Pittsburgh, PA	5.00	<i>in memory of L. T. Ozio, Jr.</i>		Betsy Branson, Flourtown, PA	5.00
Jane B. Sherer, Dora, AL	2.00	First African Violet Society of Spartanburg, Woodruff, SC	10.00	Stanley E. Barnes, Clovis, CA	2.00
Ray and Hortense Pittman	20.00	Pomona Valley African Violet Society, Pomona, CA	25.00	Walter J. Golba, Jr., South Hadley, MA	20.00
<i>in memory of Sarah Wilson, mother of Paula Foster</i>		<i>in memory of Hilda Douglas</i>		Keith Peregrine, Urbana, IL	10.00
First Nighter African Violet Society, Dallas, TX	35.00	Fort Worth African Violet Society, Fort Worth, TX	10.00	Mary Nemec, Philadelphia, PA	5.00
<i>in memory of Sarah Wilson, mother of Paula Foster</i>		Nancy Reimer, St. Augustine, FL	10.00	Marie Ehrmann, San Francisco, CA	10.00
Joann Osborne, Alpharetta, GA	20.00	Foris Owenbey, Afton, MN	5.00	Doris Inskeep, Urbana, OH	2.00
Manikhode Bounpheng, Paris, France	10.00	Ronald Ennis, Neptune, NJ	5.00	Kathleen Spracklen, Eugene, OR	10.00
Doris R. Acree, McKenzie, TN	6.00	Amir Foroughi Abari, Hezarjerib St Isfahan, Iran	2.00	Beaumont African Violet Society	25.00
Joy Rohan, Gainesville, FL	10.00	Elizabeth Whitesides, Raleigh, NC	10.00	<i>in memory of Margaret Vallin</i>	
Mrs. Marvel Fox, St. Georges, Bermuda	10.00	Ann D. Gramstorff, Spring Hill, FL	5.00	Avsa Executive Committee	75.00
Central Jersey African Violet Society, Fords, NJ	5.00	Heidi Bonneau, San Jose, CA	50.00	<i>in memory of Sarah Wilson, mother of Paula Foster</i>	
<i>on behalf of Craig Reed</i>				TOTAL	\$1703.43



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The amazing things about the AGGS convention in Nashville this year were how many new gesneriad species and hybrids were entered in the show, in the auctions, or shown in the slide presentations. The exciting new plant material includes the small *Chirita tamiana* from Viet Nam. I'm growing one and you'd think the round, shiny leaves were from an African violet species! Maryjane Evans entered that plant as well as *Chirita gamella* which has **stolens!** Best New Introduction went to Mary Bozoian's entry of *Chirita 'Hotei'* hybridized by Frances Batcheller. It has yellow blossoms. Marcia Belisle (Belisle's Violet House) entered a beautiful mini *Sinningia* named 'Caitlin' which is a single to double lavender with a darker center. She's been hybridizing the doubles and is pleased with *Sinn. 'Mackenzie'* which is a rose-red with somewhat darker throat markings. I got from Marcia her pure white miniature *Sinn. 'Chippewa White Out'*. I don't even have the words to describe Jonathan Ertelt's entry of John Boggan's hybrid *Chirita 'Sweet Dreams'* except to say it's exceptional! Jonathan reports that this plant had 6 flower spikes with 140 blooms apiece and 3 smaller spikes with 30 blooms on each for a grand total of almost 1000 blossoms during a 2-1/2 month floral spring display!!

Jerry Trowbridge showed slides of his many new *Columnea* hybrids and he brought dozens of cuttings for raffles and the auction. He's given them names such as *Columnea 'Red Skelton'* and *C. 'Lucille Ball'* and *C. 'Rudolph Valentino.'*

Toshijiro Okuto traveled to convention from Japan and showed slides of his new *Chirita* and *Streptocarpus* hybrids. He has hybridized a strep with distinct yellow on all petals including the upper petals! This is a first! Due to his generosity in donating leaves for auction, I have leaves of the following from his hybridization efforts: *Streptocarpus 'Big Yolk'*, *Strep. 'Akashi'*, *Strep. 'Odoriko'*, and *Strep. 'Andzu'*. Some of those are miniatures/compact.

Sue Hodges from Australia presented an outstanding slide program on the incredible hybrids grown there. These included Charles Lawn's prize winning *Sinningia speciosas* as well as several of Colin Rampton's amazing hybrids including the

New Gesneriad Hybrids and Species!

floriferous *Sinningia 'Sun Blaze'*. Mr. Lawn's *Sinn. speciosa 'Only a Rose'* is a red beauty. I had on display photos of Jack Evan's *Sinn. speciosa 'Black Magic'* which has nearly black blossoms and resulted from his colchicine experiment.

Peter Shalit entered a *Sinningia* in the educational section as a "work in progress". It had a completely peloric flower. It is radially symmetric and faces straight up. Peloric means that all the blossoms are identical in shape and design. Normally sinningias have shortened, plain colored upper petals and their bottom petals thrust out and have coloration or designs. Peter's plant had blossoms that had five identical petals all with the same designs, just like what one would see in a kaleidoscope.

Two sets of variegated *Streptocarpus* leaves originally from Margaret Gurr (through Toshijiro) in New Zealand proved to be quite popular in the live auction. Yes, I have a leaf now!

Then we come to the smithianthas. My fellow Texan and hybridizer, Connie Leifeste, entered a photo of her new hybrid, *Smithiantha 'Coronado's Gold'* which is a desirable beauty. I showed slides of Masaki Yamagata's smithianthas as well as a display board of photos from seven of his latest hybrids. I'm growing 2 of each and all are so different in leaf coloration and markings that even without blossoms, they make a beautiful display on my light stands. I showed slides of my newest *Smithiantha* hybrids 'Sassy Redhead', 'Golden Leopard' and 'Hot Pink Lady'.

Those who attended the Houston AVSA convention may remember my ornamental foliage entry of Bob Stewart's new hybrid called, *Drymonia 'Francisco Pizarro'*. Many asked if they could touch the big, dark green leaves with silvery veining and deep brown-maroon backing. The toothed/fringed petals show 3 different shades of pink-purple with a golden yellow center.

My deadline for submitting this column has arrived before the first blossoms have opened on a *Streptocarpus* hybrid I grew from seed from Toshijiro Okuto's cross with the fragrant species *Streptocarpus vandeleurii*. There are 11 buds on this first blossom stem! Stay tuned and "next year" I'll let you know if there's a fragrance! Happy Holidays!

Registration Report



Iris Keating
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Claremont, CA 91711

1999 AVML Supplement Correction

Frozen In Time (S. Sorano) Single white sticktite cupped pansy/light green and white fantasy, darker green edge. **Variegated** dark green and pink, plain. **Standard**.

Rahim Wilson - Port Orchard, WA

***Orchard's Night Light** (8814) 6/8/99 (R. Wilson) Single white star/pink blush. Dark green, plain, quilted, pebbled **Semiminiature**

Ruth Bann - Fridley, MN

***Rebel's Blaze Spinner** (8815) 6/14/99 (R. Bann) Semidouble chimera white pansy/red stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted, glossy. **Standard**

***Rebel's Cranberry Crème** (8816) 6/14/99 (R. Bann) Semidouble red-violet large pansy/darker markings, white fluted edge. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Large**

***Rebel's Faith** (8817) 6/14/99 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble red pansy/darker eye, variable white edge. Dark green, pointed, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***Rebel's Midnight Sky** (8818) 6/14/99 (R. Bann) Semidouble dark blue frilled pansy. **Variegated** dark green and cream, pointed, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***Rebel's Purple Heath** (8819) 6/14/99 (R. Bann) Semidouble purple large ruffled star. **Variegated** medium green and cream, ovate, quilted, glossy/red back. **Large**

***Rebel's Valiant** (8820) 6/14/99 (R. Bann) Semidouble-double dark blue star/white ruffled edge. **Variegated** medium green and cream, plain, quilted, glossy. **Large**

Nancy Price - Cedar Falls, IA

***Queen Anne** (8821) 6/26/99 (N. Price) Semidouble purple ruffled pansy. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. **Standard**

Janette Regner - Houston, TX

***Gran's Roger** (8822) 7/8/99 (J. Regner) Semidouble lavender/white ruffled edge. Medium green, plain/red back. **Standard**

Margaret Taylor - Normanhurst, Australia

***Dreamtime** (8823) 7/9/99 (M. Taylor) Semidouble red star/pink fantasy. Dark green, ovate, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***Sharon's Way** (8824) 7/9/99 (M. Taylor) Single-semidouble peach-pink frilled pansy. Dark green, ovate, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

***Sorcerer** (8825) 7/9/99 (M. Taylor) Single-semidouble dark purple frilled pansy. Dark green, quilted, wavy, serrated. **Standard**

Karl-Heinz Dornbusch - Woolloomooloo, Australia

***Karl's Illusion** (8826) 7/9/99 (K. Dornbusch) Semidouble pink large frilled star/darker eye. Medium green, ovate, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**

Barbara Goodsell - Glenview, IL

***Honey Blue Angel** (8827) 7/12/99 (Goodsell/Pittman) Semidouble dark blue/white edge. Medium green girl foliage. **Miniature**

Bruno Curcuruto - North York, Ontario, Canada

***B-Man's Auola** (8828) 7/29/99 (B. Curcuruto) Single medium blue star. Medium green, plain, spooned. **Standard**

***B-Man's Gracie** (8829) 7/29/99 (B. Curcuruto) Single-semidouble dark purple pansy. **Variegated** dark green, white and light pink, pointed, serrated. **Large**

***B-Man's Melila** (8830) 7/29/99 (B. Curcuruto) Single medium pink ruffled pansy. **Variegated** medium green and white, pointed, serrated. **Large**

***B-Man's Moncibello** (8831) 7/29/99 (B. Curcuruto) Single mauve ruffled pansy/variable white edge. **Variegated** dark green and light pink, pointed, serrated. **Large**

***B-Man's Palma** (8832) 7/29/99 (C. Curcuruto) Double medium pink frilled pansy. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain, quilted, serrated. **Large**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Dolores Harrington - Fridley, MN

*David Alan * Flying North * Jettie * Lucille Woolever * Steven Dennis * Wild Red

REGISTRATION CHANGE

Dancing Eyes (8759) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink/dark rose eye. **Variegated green and white**, plain.

African Violet Pests

by Keith Lind

Aphids can become quite a serious problem to the unwary grower. They are small sap sucking insects that can be green, gray or black in color. They can reproduce very rapidly, and if left unchecked can cause not only wilting of the leaves and discoloration of the plant but also their sticky secretions are very unsightly.

Colonies of aphids contain eggs, immature aphids in a nymph-like stage, discarded skins from which the adult aphids emerge, and of course, the adult aphids. Control by spraying with Malathion as required until the pest has been eradicated.

Fungus gnats are classed as pests but few growers believe that they do any damage to African violets. A fungus gnat is in fact a very tiny wasp which lays eggs in the potting medium, and the larvae feed on decaying organic matter such as animal manures or any compost material used. The adult gnats hover around African violet plants looking for partners or suitable areas in which to lay their eggs. The larvae can be found in decaying tissue of roots, crowns and stems affected by root or crown rot. These larvae can be easily identified as they are gray to transparent in color with rather a blunt tail end and black head. They are about two to four millimeters in length. Populations can be controlled by hanging pest strips among the plants, or by drenching the potting mix with either Malathion or Thiodan.

Thrips are tiny insects that can do maximum damage and remain mostly undetected until they have created much havoc among African violets. They are tiny elongated winged insects that can be black, brown or even an orange color. These insects usually do most damage to African violet flowers by sucking the sap from the young petals and causing some flowers to fail to open. Other flowers die prematurely and the petals become brown, dry and papery. Thrips can be seen moving about among the pollen sacs, and flowers that have been attacked will show pollen on the



lower petals. Reports have been received of thrips causing damage to leaves and I am trying to identify leaf damage on African violets which is thought to be done by thrips. Malathion spray is an effective method of control for thrips but it is wise to remove flowers before application.

In all instances where I have mentioned spray please use all precautions on the container and use it at the recommended rate.

Less prevalent than most pests but equally annoying and frustrating are the biting and chewing insects. Caterpillars of various kinds, which are of course the larvae of moths or butterflies, can cause enormous damage if not detected quickly. Large holes and gaps in leaves and droppings under the plant are sure signs that these villains have been at work. I find that loopers are the worst of these invaders as they are extremely hard to find. They hide under the leaves and attach themselves to the center vein during the day and usually feed at night. They are not satisfied with destroying one plant at a time but will move from leaf to leaf or plant to plant, and seem intent on inflicting as much damage as possible, in as little time as possible. They can be green or brown or even shades of red if they happen to be feeding on flowers. Some types of hairy caterpillars can be equally destructive and equally evasive as they too usually feed at night and hide under leaves or under pots during the day. Removal by hand at night with the help of a good flashlight is the best means of eradication from small collections. Spraying with Malathion when caterpillars are very small and known to be present, will prevent serious damage from being done at a later time. The best insurance of all is to close off your growing area with insect proof material so that moths and butterflies cannot get among your plants to lay their eggs.

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Question Box



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Getting back into the swing of things seems to be a constant refrain in my life this past two years, so if it fits a group of other growers with similar problems I can greatly sympathize! My latest misfortune was triggered by an urge to get healthy while giving my dog a happy atmosphere after she was diagnosed with cancer. The goal was to get lots of exercise. The problem was on this last walk, as we were coming down a hill, Dolly decided to stop in front of me. With good momentum I managed to connect with the sidewalk and break my knee cap. Of the things you can do with one leg immobilized, the pickings are mighty poor. After reading and eating you do a lot of limping.

The mail proved to be more interesting and I'd like to make a few comments about urea as a fertilizer which I hope no one will feel are unfair. The latest trend seems to be that urea is a bad form of fertilizer and this is not true. It has been in use for centuries. Poor use of urea and misunderstanding how it should be used are the source of the problems. The number one problem among growers in general seems to be "What is the quickest, easiest way", and as the saying goes "There is no free lunch". Most of the good results in growing, stem from the grower being willing to do what is necessary. Your fertilizer and water contain a great many ingredients, and you need to leach your soil to remove the residue. This should be done at least every six weeks. If you use reservoirs you need to be dumping the solution every two weeks and replacing with fresh as evaporation has made the mix more concentrated, but you still need to leach fairly often. Leaching is the process of running about a quart (less for semiminiatures or miniatures) of clear water through the plant where it can drain quickly, at the sink or in a pail. If you elect to go with a non-urea fertilizer, most of which are very weak, and if you grow many Miniatures and Semiminiatures you do okay. For those trying to grow large plants, it's hard to understand why the outer rows of leaves

become pale and eventually die. The reason is, there just isn't enough nourishment in low numbered fertilizers to support a large plant.

I've often been asked how I water and when I say: "I top water," they seem to think this is too great a task. You do need to gently lift a section of leaves at a time (a group lifted together doesn't tend to break) in order to water large plants, but this also helps flush the residue from the top soil as well as giving personal attention to each plant. I continue to use fertilizers containing urea as I have since I started growing. I rotate varieties of fertilizer and use a weak type every fourth watering as I have found that this gives me more flexibility and a greater choice of trace elements. I feel a weak fertilizer, or just plain water periodically, gives the plants a rest.

KITTY FLEA COLLARS: For all of you that wrote asking for information about their use, please refer to Editor's Notes in the September/October AVM.

QUESTION: *I recently purchased a small light stand with two 24" inch 15 watt Grolux florescent tubes that are 10" from the top of the grating on the 11" x 22" trays. The tubes are side by side (not separated as on my Volkmann stand lights) Does this stand have adequate light for some violets?*

ANSWER: This type of stand does very well for miniatures and semiminatures as well as your starter plants and for rooting leaves. If you are looking for more distance between the light fixture and the plant you could eliminate the grating and set medium sized plants directly in the trays. I used this size shelf on 3 three tiered stands for many years and never felt it had great drawbacks except for the purchasing of tubes. They are more expensive and as you point out, only 15 watts as opposed to 40 or 35 watts for 4' tubes. Since you have a Volkmann plant stand your

standards will do much better with this type of light and distance from the light source.

QUESTION: When measuring the diameter of a plant, is it correct to lift the leaves and measure across them?

ANSWER: This sounds like a question for Shows and Judges. If you are doing your own measuring at home, you can certainly lift the leaves to determine if you wish to repot, remove some leaves or generally work with your plant. However, if you are talking about a show situation, the rules specifically state a judge may not touch the plant. Even if s/he wishes to see whether the plant has a sucker, s/he must ask a clerk to hold the plant up for any inspection. If this is an entries committee problem, they can ask the grower to measure the plant with a ruler or embroidery hoops keeping in mind that leaves may not be touched by the judges. If there is a question, it would be wise to warn the grower that the plant looks like it might be oversized, and there could be a question raised as to the correct size. Often it is possible to remove a row of leaves if the plant is very symmetrical, but the fact that there was a question of lifting the leaves sounds as if it might be somewhat curled under and in this case removing leaves can be very tricky. This is the big advantage of growing on rings; you don't have leaves curling under and the leaves can be kept straighter.

QUESTION: My husband bought me a lovely African violet at the local grocery store nursery. The floral worker sprayed some oily substance on the leaves to "shine" them up. Will this hurt the leaves and if so how do I remove it?

ANSWER: Don't you have a lovely thoughtful husband! All plant shines I've seen, are oil based and would not be good for African violet plants. There is a strong doubt in my mind that this plant will do well after being treated in this way, but at least you can try to remove all the oily substance by spraying the leaves with a mild dish soap (1 tsp. per quart) mixed in warm water. Be sure you can drain the plant well as you go along. If you have an old dish drainer, turn it upside down and place the plant at a slant in the groove which would normally support the dishes. When it looks like the oily substance has been removed, rinse very thoroughly. If you keep turning the plant as you work, the suds and the rinse water will run off quickly with the plant at about a 45 degree angle.

QUESTION: Everything I've read warns against starting leaves in water, yet you still find this method of propagation mentioned in many publications. Why promote a method that is less likely to succeed?

ANSWER: There are people that have been growing for many years and they still have success with rooting in water. When you ask about the transition between water roots and soil roots they say they do not have a problem. This does cause new growers to ask why many of the clubs show how to put down leaves, but the water method is not included in the demonstration. It's far easier just to say this is possible and point out the problem they may encounter when they try to put the leaf into soil. If "Mother" did it this way you will find yourself speaking heresy as far as this person is concerned. It's better to let them find out that others in the club had better luck with the leaves they got at "Leaf Bingo" using a sterile mix. We all like to succeed and it's often hard to change a long standing mind set except by example.

QUESTION: Are "beneficial" insects a good method to use in getting rid of thrips?

ANSWER: It seems to me one insect is bad enough, I'd rather not introduce anymore into the house. I'm a great believer in letting nature solve as many problems as possible. In the garden I depend on the Lady Bugs, some of the birds and just plain washing insects off with a strong spray. I'm not sure I feel comfortable in introducing microscopic predators into the collection in the house. One writer asked what becomes of the predators once the thrips are gone? (I'm not too sure they are gone. If the predator ate all of the thrips there would be no more food and nature seems to work on control, not elimination.) I once ordered Lace Wings and was very disappointed to find not enough food had been supplied when they were sent and only a few survived the trip. I have never been able to promote a good colony of Lace Wings and would really like to do so as they are very "gardener friendly" and a big asset if you are growing tropicals. The Lace Wings were for a greenhouse situation. I'm aware it may be fine to order them for gardens but I wouldn't consider using beneficial insects for a closed environment again. Perhaps the question is "Do you get the insects you order in good condition?"

Name of columnist replying is in bold print.



Thinking Small



Pat Richards

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The holiday season is upon us, meaning it's time for family, friends, festivities and tons of food. During this joyous season it's very easy to forget our lovely violets. Remember though, all the good care you give now will result in abundant flowers during the longest and coldest of winter months when bright color in our plant rooms is most enjoyed. Now on to our topic of the day, straying a bit from our ordinary discussion of small ones to slightly modified small ones: trailing miniature and semiminiature African violets.

PLANTS YOU CAN FORGET

The one thing that distinguishes trailing African violets from single crown standards, miniatures and semiminiatures is the single most important reason to grow them. What is this "one thing"? African violet trailers have multiple crowns which grow either upward in a "bush" type fashion or outward in a more typically "trailing" type of fashion. This results in more abundant and continuous bloom, less stringent daily care, and rewards that are multiplied time and again. Suckering is allowed, in fact, it is a good thing, and often is encouraged. Talk about a time saver!

The hybridizer determines the size of the trailer, basing this designation on leaf size: the leaves of microminiatures are approximately one-fourth by one-half inch, miniatures are one-half by 1 inch, semiminiatures are 1 by 1 and one-half inch, and standards are 1 and one-half by 2 inches. Because of the multiple crowns, miniature and semiminiature trailers do not have the same diameter restrictions as their single crown counterparts, and may be grown in any container which is proportionate to the plant. Giving witness to this is the spectacular specimen of 'Tiny Wood Trail', grown by Alice Grundy, which took Best in Show honors at the

1995 AVSA convention in St. Louis. This cultivar is a miniature trailer which measured over 16 inches across, yet each leaf had remained very small and size appropriate. (See the cover of the September 1995 African Violet Magazine to refresh your memory of the truly exquisite nature of this expertly grown specimen!).

The final point to be made about trailing African violets is they are a tremendously forgiving, hardy *Saintpaulia*. Unlike their single crown counterparts, they grow very well in natural light, flourishing and blooming in north and east exposures, and in south and west exposures with some protection from the hot, direct sun. They require turning to keep their "form" nice and rounded, but other than that, because of their multiple crowned habit, take very kindly to being window grown and are far more forgiving of neglect as flaws in their form take much longer to develop and are not so obvious as flaws in the symmetry of a single crown cultivar. Similarly, because of the genes they inherited from their species ancestors, they have taken on a remarkable hardiness. While this should not be said in such a candid manner, they take abuse quite well, withstanding under watering, under fertilization, and lack of grooming very well. Simply put, they are very hardy and forgiving.

WHAT YOU NEED TO REMEMBER

Most of us will acquire our trailers as small starter plants or as plantlets from leaves. At this point treat them no differently than any other small one.

In a few weeks to a few months you will notice one thing: suckering! When this begins, it should be encouraged. If your trailer does not sucker, but instead wishes to remain single crown, gentle guidance is in order. When the single

crown reaches about 2-3 inches in height, pinch out the growing center (using your fingernails or a sharp knife) and replant it to root and give to a friend. After several weeks you should see new crowns developing from the axils on the main plant. A good trailer should have no fewer than three crowns, and as it matures will develop many more. If your plant wishes to remain single crown, it's probably been misnamed.

Most trailers don't need special guidance, but these are the things you should look for: multiple crowns spread fairly evenly around the main stem. Ideally they should form a round, continuous "ball" or mass of foliage. Once the foliage extends beyond the diameter of the pot it's time to "pot up" into a slightly larger pot, and it is here that trailer type and trailer theorists diverge.

There are two basic types of trailers: bush type or semi-trailer, which put out multiple crowns that grow upright and do not have a great tendency to "trail" or "sprawl." Then there are the true trailing types, which happily put out numerous crowns that are fast growing in both a vertical and horizontal fashion. With the bush type, once the main set of crowns is developed, additional pinching is not critical. With the trailing type, however, pinching is far more critical or you end up with a wagon wheel effect instead of a nicely rounded, well-formed plant.

And here lies the divergence: many growers simply pinch and move on. This works well, but if you want to grow the "ultimate" trailer with many crowns, lush growth, and vigor, then you must take one extra step at this juncture. While it seems harsh, it must be done and it does work! When the growing tips have been pinched, trim off the foliage as well, particularly on the side of the stem that is closest to the soil. When you remove each leaf, do it very carefully so as to leave a "nubbin" of the petiole. In so doing, you'll leave intact the axil from which new suckers will sprout. If you fail to leave the axil, no matter what, a new crown cannot develop. I always leave on a few leaves evenly spaced around the stems to allow for photosynthesis, but for the most part the stems are bare. The result will be roots forming from spots where the stems contact the soil (remember, we started with one main plant, one main stem, one set of roots), and new crowns forming on top of the stems. Once your trailer gets going in this fashion, there's no stopping it. An occasional pinching to keep stems from becoming bare and new, fresh growth developing is a good idea, as is frequent potting up or freshening of soil. Enjoy!

FAVORITES

Here's the best part: making recommendations for a wide variety of trailers beginning with the miniatures. 'Tiny Wood Trail' by Khoe is excellent. It stays very tiny and trails naturally. It has masses of blue bell-shaped blooms atop pointed, dark green foliage. 'Blustery Trail' (Lyon) is a delightful, yet more difficult to grow trailer requiring a little more attention.

Again, it has bell-shaped dark blue blooms produced on top of dark green foliage. Unlike 'Tiny Wood Trail' it does not trail so readily and is not as vigorous.

As for the semiminatures, 'Milky Way Trail' (Stahl) is a perennial favorite with massive production of white blooms atop apple green, freely trailing foliage. Another great white is 'Falling Snow' (Tracey), a very vigorous, extremely heavy blooming trailer with light green foliage. 'Lil Runaround' (Sorano) is tremendous. Almost ever-blooming, it has puffs of white to blush-pink blooms with light green foliage. It does need to be pinched for best results. 'Rob's Sticky Wicket' is an absolute classic. A tremendously vigorous trailer with nonstop medium pink blooms. Rob also has many other trailers that fall into this "classic" realm, including 'Rob's Boolaroo', (pink with blue spot fantasy), 'Rob's Toorooka', (rose with some white tips), 'Rob's Jindalee', (like 'Rob's Toorooka', only more blue), 'Rob's Gundaroo', (breathtaking silky-blue blooms with white reverse), 'Rob's Lilli Pilli', (beautiful striped fantasy of pastel lavender and pink), just to name a few. 'Dancin' Trail', a Lyndon Lyon classic, has beautiful almost true deep red blooms that are produced almost nonstop atop semi-trailing type dark green with red-backed foliage. The color combination on this one is quite striking. 'Marion's Enchanted Trail' (Pittman) tends more toward the semi-trailing type, freely producing many crowns from which absolute masses of medium blue blooms are produced. The most attractive feature of this plant are the bright yellow pollen sacs which accent each bloom. Another great trailer by Pittman is 'Sundown Trail', again, a semi-trailer with dark, pointed, shiny foliage and copious amounts of dark blue double blooms.

Try a miniature or semiminiature trailer today . . . if you're unsure which one to try, contact your favorite commercial and ask what they recommend. Try one and fall in love forever! Happy holidays to everyone, and we'll talk again next time!

Recommended reading:

Egan, Patricia, "Trailers Under Control", 46 African Violet Magazine 3, May-June 1993, p. 38.

Kisamore, Chisako, "The Japanese Technique For Growing African Violet Trailers", 45 African Violet Magazine 6, November-December 1992, p. 51.

Miller, Ardath, "Growing & Showing African Violet Trailers", 50 African Violet Magazine 1, January-February 1997, p. 26.

Beaulieu, John, "Happy Trails to You", 50 African Violet Magazine 5, September-October 1997, p. 52.

Robinson, Ralph, "Notes on Trailing African Violets", 51 African Violet Magazine 3, May-June 1998, p. 22

Or check out some of the great trailer information in the AVSA library: "Growing Beautiful African Violet Trailers" a video by Anna Jean Landgren or "Trailers-Making Them Do What I Want Them To Do" a slide presentation by Bev Promersberger.

In Search of New Violets



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A reader recently asked if anyone was hybridizing with "Supreme" foliage these days. This type of foliage is an interesting trait from the early history of African violets and may be unfamiliar to newer growers. "Supreme" foliage is known for its larger leaf size, wider spacing between the leaves, and general coarseness of growth. The foliage is also somewhat brittle and the leaves tended to break easily in shipping or during transportation to shows. "Supreme" foliage is the result of a tetraploid chromosome number. Instead of the plants having two sets of 15 chromosomes for a total of 30, "Supreme" plants have four sets of chromosomes for a total of 60. The larger number of chromosomes produces larger cells and leaves. Tetraploids can be an improvement over regular plants, such as in daylilies, but they are usually only marginal improvements in African violets. While it is still possible to find these plants (also known as "Amazons") among the Vintage Violets, I do not know that any hybridizer is currently working with this foliage trait.

Q: *I wish to cross 'Love Spots' (dark purple with pink puff fantasy on non-variegated foliage) with 'Sarava' (lilac with a wide white edge on variegated foliage). My goal is to produce a light purple with pink puff fantasy and wide white edges on variegated foliage. Can I achieve this goal with this cross?*

A: I believe that this cross will achieve your goal as long as the variegated plant is used as the seed parent. The purple color will dominate over lilac and I would expect about 50% of the flowers to be light purple. Puff fantasy is a dominant trait, so about 50% of the offspring should have fantasy flowers. The white edge should show up in nearly all the offspring, but the edge may not be as "wide" as you might like. If the seed parent has variegated foliage, then nearly all of the

offspring should be variegated. When all of these traits are multiplied together, about 25% of the offspring should be in the combination of your goal. It sounds like you have a very pretty plant as your goal. Good Luck!

Q: *I understand that many of today's traits in African violets are the result of mutations or sports. Is there anything you can recommend that a local grower could use to cause new mutations?*

A: While you are correct that many of today's traits such as pink flowers, star shape, geneva edges, etc., first appeared as mutations, I'd hesitate to recommend something you could use to cause more of them. A mutation is a change in the DNA or the genetic material of a cell. Certain types of chemicals and radiation are two ways to change a cell's DNA. However, anything you use to alter the DNA of an African violet could also cause a change in your DNA and I'd be concerned for your safety.

Many of our important mutations showed up first in leaf cuttings. The new plants that develop from leaf cuttings originate from single cells. If there are any spontaneous changes in the DNA of these cells, then the new plant will be a sport or mutation. You might try growing a bunch of plants from leaf cuttings and keep your eyes open for some of these genetic changes. With any luck, you'll have a relatively safe way to watch for new mutations.

For whatever it's worth, there have been reports in the literature of individuals who treated African violet seed or leaf cuttings with radiation in the hope of creating new mutations. The success rate of these experiments was very low and few if any of the mutations were an improvement over current plants. In fact, I'd be hard pressed to give an example of a useful trait in African violets that was created by a purposeful mutation in an experiment. I think your time might be better

spent in combining current genetic traits in new combinations rather than trying to create new mutations.

Q: I like the long unusual foliage of 'Celery'. If I want to hybridize more plants with this type of foliage, should I start with 'Celery' as a parent or are there other ways to create this type of foliage?

A: I also like the unusual appearance of 'Celery'. It looks so little like an African violet, I often have trouble getting people to believe it actually is one. I believe the foliage of 'Celery' is a combination of two traits, bustled foliage and longifolia foliage. Bustled foliage is a genetic dominant and many of the Jimmy Dates' hybrids have this trait. Longifolia foliage is less common, but if you check the Master Variety List you should locate some cultivars with this foliage type. A cross of a plant with bustled foliage and one with longifolia foliage should



“How Do I Get My Plants To Bloom?”

by Ruth Greico

I think the most frequently asked question is, "How do I get my plants to bloom?" I guess most of us know the answer to that. Very simply, the plants need a combination of sufficient light and fertilizer to put forth blooms. If you grow your plants under artificial light, control of light is obviously much easier than if grown in natural light. The general rule is that under artificial light, the plants want 11-12 hours of illumination a day (this varies somewhat depending upon how close your plants are to the light source). Many of us have our fluorescent lights on timers, which takes the guess work out of the process.

If you grow in natural light, it is far less exact. Winter days give us only 9 to 10 hours of possible daylight but, at best, it's dim and, at worst, it's nonexistent! Once we enter spring and the daylight hours extend, the plants do show signs of perking up.

Now, if you have your plants on a consistent fertilizing schedule, the plants may have the perfect combination for producing blooms. There actually is a very big difference between using full strength fertilizer once a month or quarter strength fertilizer with every watering. Where African violets are concerned, quarter strength fertilizing is the way to go,

create a plant similar to 'Celery'. This might be easier than starting with 'Celery' itself as this cultivar does not flower regularly and could be difficult to get seed set to take place.

Q: If I cross a plant with blue flowers with reverse fantasy to a plant with purple flowers and green edges, can I get a blue reverse fantasy with green edges?

A: Yes, I believe about 25% or more of the offspring should have this combination. Reverse fantasy and green edges are both dominant traits. If each parent has only one copy of the trait, then about half of the offspring should also inherit the trait. The chance of getting both traits together would be the product of their individual chances, or about 25%. If either plant has two copies of the trait, then the odds will go up. It sounds like this would be an interesting combination of traits.

since it provides the plant with a constant source of minerals and nutrients. Do remember that fertilizers can build up in the soil and around the edge of your pots. (You've all probably seen the crusty build-up on the inside edges of your pots. These are fertilizer salts). About once a month you should "flush" your plants with clear, unfertilized water. By "flushing" I mean watering from the top and letting the water run through the plant several times. This will prevent the fertilizer from building up.

There is one more essential element that has to be added to the solution of getting your plants to bloom and that is a temperature above a minimum of 67°. Your plants really DO want to bloom, however, if the temperature is too low, your plant will conserve its energy by not making blooms, and will use its energy to stay green. Too-low temperatures also bring on another whole set of problems but that is another article for another day!

Good luck and happy growing!

Reprinted from Ye Bay Stater, publication of the Bay State AVS

Well-Traveled Violets

by John G. Adney
Marion, Iowa

Wind, chill and snow surround my house as I plot a second winter in a warm climate with my African violets. My collection, which includes several other gesneriads, is becoming well-traveled following a four-month stay in the Desert Southwest this past winter.

My wife Pat, a traveling registered nurse, makes these warm-climate escapes possible. Her first was at Yuma, Arizona, where we and the plants spent January through much of April. The journey proved that African violets can be hauled some 5,000 miles and survive (well, most of them survived).

Of the more than 100 AVs, *Streptocarpus*, *Ecudonia*, *Episcia*, *Petrocosmea* and *Alsobia* that made the round-trip with us, only seven bit the dust -- five on the drive to Yuma, two on our return to Iowa.

After Pat learned that she had been assigned to a clinic in Yuma, I hovered over my plants and wondered how they would fare with a plant-sitter. I had bad vibes about the idea. Pat suggested we take the collection with us.

The first task was finding enough plastic sweater boxes to hold the plants. I found some on sale at a craft store. Two weeks before the big move I began preparing the plants for the trip. I removed all blossoms so the AVs could concentrate on staying healthy rather than blooming. I ceased fertilizing and watered them only enough to prevent them from going limp. AVs do not enjoy being shipped wet in a closed environment.

The night before we left, I took the plants from their light shelves, cleaned any that needed it, and packed them in the plastic boxes, separating each plant with crumpled newspapers. My camper on my pickup truck was loaded the day before with items we would need. The plant boxes were stacked behind the seat in the cab the next morning, just before we were ready to leave.

The thermometer hovered around 25 degrees F. below zero. The wind was gusting and light snowflakes were dusting the ground. I parked the pickup close to the front door of our house. Then we dashed to and fro, carrying boxes as fast as we could because the AVs would not survive the deep freeze. With that chore completed, we fled wintery

Iowa.

We took our time, stopping to visit relatives or to sample local attractions along the way. At each evening stop, at a motel or someone's house, we carried each box from the pickup into our "home" for the night. Each morning, we moved them back to the truck.

The boxes were opened and plants inspected each evening. Only a few were sulking. Damaged leaves were removed. Plants that were really limp received a slight amount of water. By the time we settled in at Yuma, we had lost five plants -- not bad for a load of more than 100.

The plants were finally unpackaged after a week long trip and placed on plastic shelves we erected in front of the French doors of our ground-floor apartment. They received good light but no direct sun. They enjoyed their winter home as much as we did.

Normal fertilization and watering resumed after the gesneriads were in their new home. Yuma's salty water is not fit for man nor beast, so only bottled water was used. I experimented with one African violet, giving it "normal" Yuma water. It became quite unhappy, so it was unpotted, its roots cleaned and then it was returned to the freshly-scrubbed pot in a soilless mix free of salt residue.

When it was time to leave Yuma in mid-April, the packing and transportation process was repeated. Each evening the boxes were carried into a motel and each morning they went back to the pickup. Only two AVs were lost on the return trip; both were too damp and their leaves turned to mush about half-way home.

Now it's time to prepare for another winter outing. We're not sure where we'll be going as I write this, but I know the African violets and their cousins will go with us. The trip will involve a larger number of plants because my collection has grown.

I was disappointed to lose five African violets and two *Streptocarpus*, but I was even more upset when we arrived home. The plant-sitter had failed to take proper care of the houseplants left behind, and most were dead. Thankfully, I had decided to trust no one with my gesneriads except me.



AFFILIATE UPDATE

Bev Promersberger
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Are you looking for a club in East Central Minnesota or Midland, Texas? The following clubs are organizing and are looking for members to share their interest in growing African violets. If you live in either of these areas, you can find out more by contacting the following growers:

East Central Minnesota - Denise Roos
330 First Street • Mora, MN 55051-1331
(320) 679-0101 • jester@ncis.com

Midland, Texas - Marge Savage
2804 Stutz Drive • Midland, TX 79705
(915) 699-4296 • savagetom@juno.com

Meets at:
Lynn-Marie's Gifts
11 Meta Drive • Midland, TX 79701
Third Saturday each month, 3:00 p.m.

If you are looking for club members in order to share your hobby, be sure to check the AVSA web site at <http://www.avsa.org/affiliates> or the September issue of The African Violet Magazine for our affiliate listings. If you don't find an affiliate (club) in your area, contact me for a packet designed to help you get started. Our committee is eager to help you share your interest with others in your area.

What Do Those Numbers on the Fertilizer Label Mean?

by Dave Neal • Dyna-Gro Corporation, San Pablo, CA

While it is generally understood that the three numbers on the fertilizer label refer to nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K), few understand the real meaning of the numbers. The first number refers to the percentage, by weight, of elemental nitrogen regardless of the form in which it is present. Nitrogen generally is present as urea - $\text{CO}(\text{NH}_2)_2$, ammoniacal nitrogen - NH_4 , or nitrate nitrogen - NO_3 . The weight of the carbon, oxygen and hydrogen atoms in these various nitrogen containing molecules is not counted.

However, things are different when we get to phosphorus and potassium. Phosphorus is expressed as the percentage, by weight, of the phosphate molecule - P_2O_5 . Potassium is expressed as the percentage, by weight, of potash or K_2O . From the atomic weight of phosphorus (31) and oxygen (16) we can calculate the percentage the weight of the phosphate molecule which is actually phosphorus - 43.66%. Similarly, from the atomic weights of potassium (39) and oxygen, we can calculate the percentage of potash that is potassium - 82.98%.

What this means is that a fertilizer which is labeled as 10-10-10 is, in reality, 10% elemental nitrogen, 4.366% elemental phosphorus ($10 \times 43.66\%$) and 8.298% elemental potassium ($10 \times 82.98\%$) by weight or 10-4-8 in elemental terms.

There are dangers in over simplifying the roles of these and other elements. Certainly nitrogen plays a major role in promoting leaf and stem growth. The nitrate and ammoniacal

forms of nitrogen are used directly by plants for stem and leaf growth as well as in the chemical structure of proteins, hormones, chlorophyll, vitamins and enzymes.

The urea form of nitrogen must be broken down by soil borne microorganisms into one of these usable forms. Obviously, if you are growing in a sterilized medium, no microorganisms will be present to accomplish this function leaving the urea to burn leaf tips and roots.

While a common misconception, there is no scientific evidence that phosphorus "promotes flowering." Most scientists believe that lower levels of nitrogen are more important to flower initiation. Phosphorus does play important roles in seed germination, photosynthesis, protein formation, overall growth and metabolism as well as flower and fruit formation. Large amounts of phosphorus, without correspondingly larger amounts of zinc, can lead to zinc deficiency.

The statement that "potassium ... promotes root growth," has no scientific support. Root growth is stimulated by certain naturally occurring plant hormones, namely indole-3-butyric acid and 1-naphthalene acetic acid. These hormones are available in some commercial plant root stimulation products, including KLN Concentrate from Dyna-Gro Nutrition Solutions.

Potassium is important in the formation of sugars, carbohydrates, proteins and cell division. Potassium is important to plants in adjusting water balance, improving stem rigidity and cold hardiness. Potassium improves color and oil content of fruits and is important for leafy crops.

Saintpaulia Species Growing Habits

The following article was originally taken from the Potomac Council of African Violet Judges' Yearbook, and it offers a ready reference on the growing habits of Saintpaulia species. It is important to understand how they respond to the environment in order to grow the best species.

Most species grow beautifully with very, very low light. My suggestion is two bulbs that are almost burnt out. The amount of light a species receives will sometimes affect the color of the leaf and blossom. *S. diplotrichia punter #6* in high light has a leaf that is darker green in color with blossoms medium to dark lilac. Its oldest row of leaves will hug the pot while upper leaves will remain flat. In very low light, *S. diplotrichia punter #6* has a medium green leaf with pale to medium lilac blossoms. Leaves will lay very flat and grow much larger. Plants that can take regular strength 40 watt, 2 bulb fixtures with normal distance from the light are: *S. magungensis minima*, *S. grandifolia #237* and *S. grandifolia #238*.

S. pendula var. kizarae - Easy to bloom, this is a natural trailer that trails easily. Remove larger leaves to improve form and induce new suckers.

S. pendula - Quite difficult to bloom and grow! Larger thicker furred leaves than var. kizarae.

S. magungensis - Easy bloomer. Larger leaves than var. *occidentalis*. Thrives on moisture and humidity. Leaves curve downward.

S. magungensis var. minima - Very difficult to grow and bloom! Tiny leaves.

S. magungensis var. occidentalis - Easy bloomer. More pointed leaves tend to cup.

S. orbicularis var. purpurca - Easy bloomer.

S. teitensis - Blossoms hide under leaves. Medium to dark green shiny leaves.

S. shumensis - Blue ribbon if it has three or four blossoms! Miniature in size. Needs a lot of humidity to grow.

S. brevipilosa - Miniature to semiminiature in size. Heavy bloomer with dark blue flower.

S. diplotricha - Easy bloomer, pale lilac.

S. diplotricha punter #6 and #7 - One has sawtooth leaf; the other round. Easy bloomer.

S. velutina - Good bloomer. Dark, heavily veined. Don't overfeed or overwater.

S. diffcilis - Easy bloomer. Foppy leaf with deep veining.

S. House of Amani - Easy bloomer.

S. rupicola (dark) - Easy to bloom. Low light and cool temperatures.

S. nitida - Easy to bloom. Grow in cool temperatures. Modest in low light. Bright green shiny leaves.

S. confusa - NOT a heavy bloomer. True purple bloom. Needs

more water and higher humidity. Seems to like low light and will bloom better than in high light.

S. goetzeana - Extremely difficult to bloom and grow. Plant with eight blooms is definitely best in class. Likes extreme cold and low light.

S. Sigi Falls - Medium to difficult to bloom, depending on area grown. In natural light grows best in warm temperatures.

Usually Grown Single Crowned:

S. grandifolia #327 - Floriferous bloomer. Can be grown in a dark closet! Light green somewhat transparent foliage has some crinkling, but not as much as #299.

S. grandifolia #299 - Floriferous bloomer. Can be grown in a dark closet! Darker green foliage - somewhat mottled appearance.

S. intermedia - Good bloomer. Starts single crowned, but eventually can be made to trail.

S. ionantha - Large good bloomer. Best as a single rosette.

S. tongwensis - Easy to grow. Long strap-like leaves. Tend to look almost variegated with unusual mottled patterns, somewhat like Lillian Jarrett foliage. As plant ages, blossoms sometimes look almost chimera-like.

No Form Whatsoever

S. orbicularis - Can't decide if it is a trailer, buncher or a single crowned plant. Seems to have a constant "neck" problem. Blooms readily with very pale blue blossoms with blue eye. Blooms drop easily -looking at them will do it!

S. grotei - Difficult to bloom and grow other than in HOT weather. Give more credit when blooming between November and February. Grows air roots which should not be faulted.

Others (Not Considered Official Species by AVSA):

White ionantha - New introduction, white blossom. Light green, rather weak foliage. Can be a heavy bloomer, but will probably never get larger than a semi or mini to small standard. Needs warm area in which to grow when grown in cool area, the blossom begins to get a pale lilac cast to it.

Robertson - A large growing, light green foliage plant with medium blue blossoms. Very vigorous.

Velutina Lite - Sport of *S. velutina*. Very small velutina-like leaves more of the olive green shade than the dark shade of *velutina*. Blossom is an off-white with a dark blue eye. A true miniature; will not get any larger than 4 or 5 inches diameter.

Sport of grotei - Chimera flower. Likes high light. Can be grown as a trailer.

Rupicola Lite - Variation on original. Blossoms are lavender. Internodes are much closer together, giving plant a more compact look.

“And the winners are ...”



Mary Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024



AVS OF ROCHESTER, NY – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rain Man, Ode to Beauty, The Alps, **Doug Burdick**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, *Saintpaulia difficilis*, *Saintpaulia diplotricha* #7; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Timid Teen, Chimpansy, Rob's Zero Gravity; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Red Flash; Best Miniature: Alan's Baby Bonnet; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina* light; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita linearifolia*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Fay Wagman**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso, **Olive Robinson**. Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Jean Samiec**. Best Design, **Diane Johanson**. Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Festenstein**.

CAPITAL DISTRICT AVS, NY – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Snow Squall, New Attitude, Picasso; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Oksana, Rob's Sarsparilla; Best Semiminiature: Oksana; Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz; Best Trailer: Trail Along, **Margaret Califano**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Aquarius, Mac's Halcyon's Horizon, Boo Man; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **George McDonald**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Sarah; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus 'Susie'*; Best Design, **Helen Gifford**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Helen Tanski**. Design Sweepstakes, **Vincent Ozimek**.

DELAWARE AVS, DE – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Candy Swirls, Party Print, Desir; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Little Pro, Teen Sweetheart; Best in Show/Best Standard: Desir; Best Miniature: Rob's Willie Nilly; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia 'Will Scarlet'*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bessie Pyle**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Dandy Lion, **Barbara LaFasha**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Andrea Pirone**. Design Sweepstakes, **Angie Celano**.

EVENING AVC OF DES MOINES, IA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Raspberry Rose, Cherries 'n' Cream, Something Special; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Happy Trails, Milky Way Trail, Sundown Trail; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Standard: Raspberry Rose; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Persian Prince; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Joan Watts**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Milky Way Trail, Rob's Sticky Wicket, Rob's Boolaroo, **Wayne Watts**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus 'Janus'*, Gloria Slater. Design Sweepstakes, **Ken Wilkinson**.

HOOSIER AVS, IN – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Rain Man, Granger's Fantasy Lace; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Bashful Baby, Irish Flirt, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best

in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Trailer: Sundown Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Jean Willey**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: White Dew, Mini Papa, Rob's Whodunit; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus 'Museum of Art'*, **Gary Mikita**. Best Standard: Bubblegum Halo; Best Design, **Lois Matusak**. Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz, **Debbie Reising**.

MEMPHIS AVS, TN – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Lela Marie, Cinnamon Ruffles; Best Miniature: Frosted Denim; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia difficilis*, **Lee Smith**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boogie Woogie, Lollipop Kid, Rob's Heat Wave; Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Stockholm; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Heat Wave, **Brenda Brasfield**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: (tie) Pink Pussycat, Irish Flirt, Magic Blue, **Ann Shirley**; Milky Way Trail, Foxwood Trail, Marion's Enchanted Trail, **Lee Smith**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia 'Moonlight Valley'*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ann Shirley**. Design Sweepstakes, **Geneva Stagg**.

MILWAUKEE AVS, WI – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Pink Skies, Rob's Heat Wave; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia leucotricha*, **Ted Berginc**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lace Shadows, Teen Craze, Optimara Little Crow; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mickey Eberle**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Glacier, **Wally Orlinski**.

AVS OF CANADA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Nortex's Snowkist Haven, Perhaps Love, Pearls 'n' Rubies; Best in Show/Best Standard: B-Man's Curcuruto, **Bruno Curcuruto**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Desir, Picasso, Aca's Red Ember; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pink Dove, Rob's Smarty Pants, Aca's Pink Pet; Best Semiminiature: Lakeshore Silver; Best Miniature: Aca's Pink Pet; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Beverley Williams**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Perfect Peach, Rob's Whodunit, Rob's Sarsparilla; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Carolyn Conlin-Lane**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia brevipilosa*, **Daphne Yaremko**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia 'Cleopatra'*, **Bob McCabe**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Karyn Cichocki**.

VIOLETS AND FRIENDS, OH – Winners: Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Dean's Bunny Blue; Best Standard: Iced Mocha; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia 'White Sprite'*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Shirley Jones**. Best Miniature: Tiny Moon Goddess; Best Design, **Terena Stotler**. Design Sweepstakes, (tie) **Shirley Jones** and **Terena Stotler**.

Temperature

The majority of the gesneriads will grow just fine in our standard room temperatures. It would be safe to say that most would enjoy a temperature of 75°F. Most gesneriads, including African violets, do not like to drop below 60°F, and growth will slow down at those temperatures.

Some gesneriads, such as the *Streptocarpus* are fine at cooler temperatures. They will in fact seem to wilt during the very high temperatures in the summertime. I usually leave some of my *Streptocarpus* outside (in protected areas) until the first light frosts in the fall!

The *Episcia* are warmth loving plants and would be quite happy at 80°F. Because of their temperature requirements, they never seem to do well outside, even during good summer weather. Although I understand that they will do fine outside in Florida and California.

If you grow on a 3 or 4 tier light stand, you may find that you will have the best luck by placing *Streptocarpus* on the lower shelves and putting the warmth loving *Episcia* on the upper shelves.

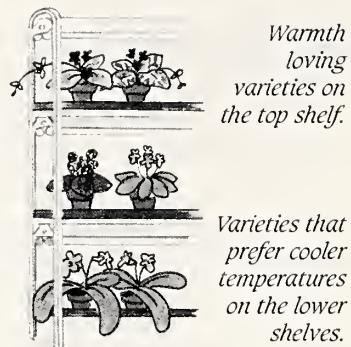
In the wild, the temperature will drop at nighttime and indoors it happens as well, although not usually much. Providing a drop at night for your plants is not really needed.

Good ventilation is another important consideration for your plants. When possible, plants seem to love fresh air. Polluted air can be very damaging to plants. Pollution is also responsible for bud blast in many gesneriads.

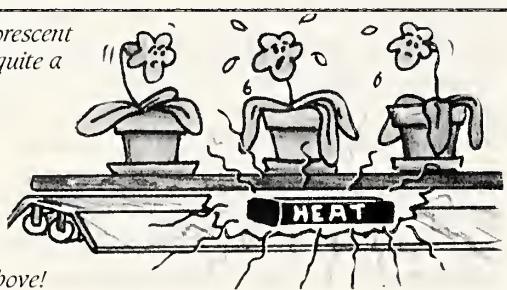
Keep your gesneriads out of cool drafts and be sure to provide protection from cold windows, if that is where you grow your plants.

Be aware of how hot regular incandescent light bulbs can get and be careful to keep your plants a safe distance from these bulbs, if you are using them to supplement natural light for your plants.

The ballast of fluorescent fixtures gives off quite a bit of heat and a ballast that is positioned right under a shelf could produce enough heat to adversely affect plants growing above!



In the cooler months, protect your plants from drafts and cold windows.



Humidity

With most Gesneriads coming from tropical-like regions, they naturally prefer a fairly high humidity. They would certainly like to have a humidity of at least 50%. This can be difficult, especially in the colder months when our furnaces are on and drying out our indoor air. Providing the ideal humidity for your plants would also cause major damage to your windows as all that moisture could collect on the colder window panes.

It is better to provide any extra humidity on a micro environment scale. There are many ways that you can put extra moisture just around your plants. The most common method used over the years has been to use a water tight tray with pebbles in it. The plants sit on pebbles, out of the water. The water provides the extra humidity. A tray of water can be covered with plastic grating and the plants can sit on the grating, and can even be wicked into the water!

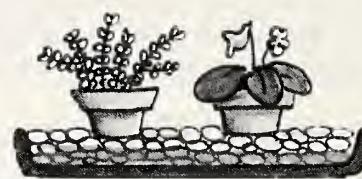
Misting your plants, although very beneficial to some, only provides them with very temporary extra humidity.

Grouping your plants together does provide a small micro climate around the plants, usually helping to hold some extra humidity.

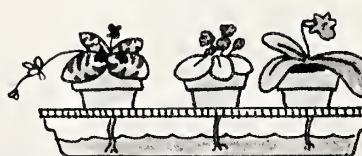
A simple 'humidiguide' will show that it is possible to have 75% humidity around your plants in a room that is generally at 40% humidity.



Methods of increasing humidity ...



Plants sitting in a pebble tray enjoy extra humidity. Do not allow the water in the tray to touch the bottom of the pots!



Plants sit on grating above trays of water. This method allows you to wick water and supply increased humidity, at the same time.

Both articles were reprinted from "An Introduction to Gesneriads - African Violets and their Relatives" by John Beaulieu

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardiness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

November Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Mon. 11:07 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
2 Tue.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
3 Wed.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
4 Thu. 6:56 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
5 Fri.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
6 Sat. 4:45 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
7 Sun.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	New 10:53 pm
8 Mon.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
9 Tue. 4:15 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
10 Wed.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
11 Thu. 5:00 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
12 Fri.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
13 Sat.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
14 Sun. 5:46 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
15 Mon.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
16 Tue. 4:21 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd 4:04 am
17 Wed.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
18 Thu. 10:58 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
19 Fri.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
20 Sat.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
21 Sun. 1:26 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
22 Mon.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
23 Tue. 1:14 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	Full 2:04 am
24 Wed.	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
25 Thu. 12:29 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
26 Fri.	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
27 Sat.	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
28 Sun.	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
29 Mon. 5:11 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th 6:19 pm
30 Tue.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th

December Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Wed. 12:29 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
2 Thu.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
3 Fri. 10:36 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
4 Sat.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
5 Sun.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
6 Mon. 10:28 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
7 Tue.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	New 5:32 pm
8 Wed. 11:14 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
9 Thu.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
10 Fri.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
11 Sat. 11:59 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
12 Sun.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
13 Mon. 11:18 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
14 Tue.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
15 Wed.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd 7:50 pm
16 Thu. 7:30 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
17 Fri.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
18 Sat. 11:45 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
19 Sun.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
20 Mon. 12:39 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
21 Tue.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
22 Wed. 11:52 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	Full 12:31 pm
23 Thu.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
24 Fri. 11:32 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
25 Sat.	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
26 Sun. 1:34 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
27 Mon.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
28 Tue. 7:15 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
29 Wed.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th 9:05 am
30 Thu. 4:37 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
31 Fri.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 1998 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, (pages 40, 42 & 233), ISBN 1-56718-933-4

The "Facts of Light" for African Violets

by Carla Ryan

Why is light important?

African violets require bright diffused light in order to grow and bloom well. If an African violet fails to bloom, the most common reason is insufficient light. This is particularly true for plants grown in natural light.

What kind of light is best for my plants?

Both fluorescent lighting and natural light will produce excellent results if correct cultural practices are followed. Because the amount of natural light your plants receive can't be completely controlled, they may not bloom as often in the winter months as they do at other times of the year.

How can I tell if my plants are not getting enough light?

If the leaves of your plant are smaller than usual, the petioles are longer than normal, and the plant looks like it is reaching straight up to the light, try giving it more light. Lack of flowering is also an indication that more light is needed.

What are the signs that a plant is getting too much light?

If the leaves on your plant are bleached, burned, or yellowed, and the center of the plants looks tight (crowded), try giving it less light.

How can I produce better symmetry?

Plants grown in natural light must be given a quarter turn twice a week to promote symmetry. Plants grown in artificial light must also be turned occasionally, especially if they are growing at the ends of the fixture.

What types of artificial light can be used?

Fluorescent lights are the most economical and produce the best results. Incandescent lights are really too hot and consume too much electricity to be used as a primary source of light. I have seen incandescent spotlights used successfully to supplement natural light when nothing else was practical but fluorescent lights are still the first choice for that purpose. High intensity lighting may work in a basement, but produce too much heat and too much light for a living area. They are slightly more economical to operate than fluorescent lights, but are really best for plants with high light requirements such as some large gesneriads.

What types of fluorescent light bulbs are best?

Cool white, warm white and Grow-Lux WS all produce

excellent results, either alone or in combination. I use a combination of one F40 Cool White and one Grow-Lux WS, because I like the color of the light and feel they last longer. Let your budget and personal tastes be your guide when buying bulbs.

What type of fixtures are best?

The "plant light" type of fixture produces a more even light over the entire shelf than the "shop light" type of fixture, which concentrates light in the middle of the shelf. Forty watt bulbs are also easy to find and often cost less than smaller sizes. Longer fixtures give even more usable light, if you have room for them, but it is more difficult to find bulbs for them.

How often should I replace fluorescent light bulbs?

Regular cool white bulbs need to be replaced once per year. If you buy extra-long-life bulbs or grow lights they will last longer - up to two years. When the ends of the bulbs darken, their useful life is over. Don't wait for them to burn out. Dust and yellowish film tend to accumulate on the bulbs and fixtures of fluorescent lights. If you dust the bulbs and clean the reflector, it will ensure that your plants receive all the light produced by the bulbs.

How far away from the bulbs should I place my plants?

Standard plants should be positioned with their tops 8 inches below the bulbs. Miniatures require more light and should be placed nearer to the bulbs.

How long should I leave the lights on?

Twelve hours is enough most of the time. Some people slowly increase the number of hours of light their plants receive (at the rate of one hour per week) in the last few weeks before the show. Various sources recommend 14, 15, 16, or even 18 hours of light to force African violets to abundant bloom. More than 18 hours is counterproductive. Like animals, plants appear to need a certain amount of rest in order to thrive. Temperature also has an effect on the amount of light required. Plants in a cool basement will need less light than those in a warm second-floor guest room. An automatic timer is practically a necessity in order to provide the kind of cultural consistency required for good, even growth and abundant bloom.

*Reprinted from publication of the
The Transvaal AVS, South Africa*



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What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

(Tip: If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener
6011 Martingale Lane
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



Leaves are the Barometer



When plants are healthy and in peak condition after a successful period of blossoming and growth, the leaves look shiny and clean. However, when you have been over-enthusiastic in fertilization or when some other cultivation problem has arisen, the leaves of your plant are usually the first to show that something is amiss.

To be able to determine what is wrong with the foliage of your plant, carefully check through this reference table with your plant beside you; the problem you have should be listed here. Act immediately.

SYMPTOM	CONDITION	SOLUTION
Dry, shrivelled leaves.	Heat too high. Humidity too low.	Move to a cooler place. Mist daily. Use pebbles in trays of water. Stand plants ON TOP OF PEBBLES, NOT IN THE WATER.
Leaf drop or blossom drop.	Overwatering. Cold water or drafts. Sensitive to gas.	Cut back on water, use warm water, move from draft, check for gas leak.
Old leaves yellowing.	Nitrogen starved.	Natural maturing. Use more nitrogen in fertilizing.
New leaves yellowing except for leaf veins.	Insufficient iron in your mix.	Give plants a dose of iron chelate.
Leaves curl down around pot.	Too much light.	Move plant away from strong light to where it is less intense. Surface on which plant stands may be too bright and reflects light.
Tight, brittle center leaves.	Too much fertilizer.	Go easy on fertilizer. Water with 1 tablespoon of dolomite lime per 5 liters of water for next 2 weeks.
Leaf spotting. White or yellow spots.	Water drops on leaves, or leaves have been exposed to sunlight.	Avoid at all costs.
No blossoms.	Insufficient light. Incorrect fertilizing.	Increase light. Often too much nitrogen, give more phosphorus and potash.
Blooming is poor, few flowers and buds fall off.	Temperatures too high, especially at night. Light poor. Water too little. Humidity too low.	Correct one at a time, checking to see which changes the situation.
Stems, leaves limp, mushy, glassy and rotten.	Overwatering.	Mix holding too much water. Repot and go easy on watering.
Weak growth. New growth is light green and yellowish.	Too little light. Plant pot-bound. Plant receiving insufficient food. Soil pH too acid (too low).	Move to a brighter place and repot into fresh soil and larger pot. Feed with a complete fertilizer. Raise soil pH by adding lime or repot in soil with a higher pH - 6.5 to 6.8.

of your Plant's Condition

SYMPTOM

CONDITION

SOLUTION

Leggy plant growth.
Pale leaves.

Insufficient light.
Temperature too high.
Humidity too low.

Move plant into stronger light, water with fertilizer and mist daily.

Stunted growth.
Small leaves that twist.

Too little regular watering over long periods. Drainage poor.
Humidity low.

Correct all these symptoms, repot, mist plant regularly.

Sooty black mold.

Too much water. Poor air circulation. Overcrowding.

Cut down on watering.
Give plants more space, clean up.

Collapse of your plant.

Root rot from overwatering.
Excessive cold or heat.

Re-root the crown.
Move plant to better locality, a more moderate temperature.

Root shock after repotting.

Mist plant daily.

Fertilizer build-up.

Flush out, repot.

Dehydration.

Mist plant, especially if weather very hot.

Whitish marks on leaves which spoil appearance.

Drops of water on leaves.

Remove water drops from leaves after watering, using your sponge.

Water is too cold.

Use tepid water.

Brown leaf edges, tips go brown.

Low humidity. Soil too dry or too wet, poor air circulation.

Mist daily, watch. Fresh air must be in plant area.

Excessively high nitrogen on pot rim is harming plant.

Cut off bad leaves.
Flush salts out with lots of warm water. Use dolomite lime twice per month.

Leaf drop. General yellowing or dropping of leaves.

Sudden drop in temperature, a chill. Poor drainage.

Water temperature.
Check drainage, repot.

Leaves with holes in them.

A chewing insect.

Find it, spray top and bottom of leaves.

Leaf variegation disappearing.

Too much nitrogen. Hot weather, temperatures too high.

Fertilize with less nitrogen until weather is cooler.

Reprinted with permission from
Growing African Violets in Southern Africa, by Joan Halford

Showcase

Apache Freedom

Exhibited & Hybridized by:
J.C. Munk
Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Rob's Calypso Beat

Best in Class
1999 National Show
Exhibited by: **Margie Geissler**
Hybridized by: **R. Robinson**
Semiminiature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Aca's Pink Pet

Exhibited by: **Beverly Williams**
AVS of Canada
1999 National Show
Hybridized by: **J. Brownlie**
Miniature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Saintpaulia velutina

Best Species
1999 National Show
Exhibited by: **Linda Golubski**

ACQUAINTANCE WITH AFRICAN VIOLET TERMINOLOGY

by Anne Tinari • Huntingdon Valley, PA

People who grow African violets find a great rapport with them by becoming familiar with the terminology one uses in referring to aspects of the botany and familiar terms used in growing and grooming America's favorite houseplant.

The African violet is a plant native to Kenya and Tanzania in East Africa. It is a member of the Gesneriad family belonging to the genus *Saintpaulia*, named for the German scientist who discovered it, Baron Von St. Paul.

The botany of the African violet consists of the following parts that are responsible for reproduction.

It is a bisexual flower; each flower contains both male and female organs.

ANTHER: The small sac carried on a thread emerging from the center of each flower. The anther splits to release pollen grains containing the male elements of the plant.

CALYX: The cup-like base of a blossom. This external part is usually green in contrast to the inner showy portion composed of colored petals. It is the outer circle of the floral envelope.

PEDICEL: The stem that supports the buds or blossoms in a bloom cluster.

PEDUNCLE: Found near the crown of the plant, the peduncles develop bearing flower clusters. It is the stalk that supports a solitary flower or a cluster.

PETAL: A single African violet has five petals.

PETIOLE: A stem attached to the leaf.

PISTIL: Is the seed bearing female portion of the flowers and consists of ovaries, style and stigma.

POLLEN: The fertile, usually yellow dust, released from the anther.

SEPAL: One of the separate parts of a calyx.

STAMENS: The anther and the filament contained in the male fertilizing cells.

STIGMA: The uppermost top of the pistil, which receives and holds the pollen grains.

STYLE: Part of the female portion of the flower, which protrudes through the center of the flower.

Not only are African violets attractive for their flowers but are enhanced by the many types of foliage that exist. A simple explanation of the leaf types is as follows:

The midrib of a leaf is the central vein of the leaf, which appears as a ridge-like extension of the petiole and leaf stem.

CORDATE LEAF: Roughly heart-shaped leaf, notched at the base.

CRENATE LEAF: Leaf margin marked by rounded scallops.

DENTATE LEAF: Leaf has a toothed margin.

ENTIRE LEAF: A smooth edged leaf with grooves, scallops or indentations of any kind.

GIRL-TYPE LEAF: Deeply scalloped leaves usually rounded or heart-shape with white to yellow markings at the base of each leaf. Markings can extend to leaf blades and edges of the leaf.

LONGIFOLIA or SPIDER: Is a narrow, pointed strap-like leaf with plain or wavy foliage.

MOSAIC VARIEGATED LEAF: Variegation covers the entire leaf in a mosaic pattern such as the popular **LILLIAN JARRETT** variety.

OBTUSE LEAF: Is blunt rather than sharply pointed.

OVATE LEAF: Egg-shaped leaves attached to their stems at the broad end.

PLAIN or TAILORED LEAF: Texture and form is sometimes known as standard or "boy-type" foliage.

RHOMBIC-OVATE: An oval leaf form widened through the center.

RUFFLED LEAF: Has a serrated or ragged edge.

SERRATED LEAF: Notched or toothed on a saw-like edge.

SPOONED or CUPPED: Leaves are concave with high edges like a spoon.

SUPREME LEAF: Thick, hairy and quilted with strong pencil-like petioles.

VARIEGATED LEAF: Any foliage that has a combination of two or more of the following colors, white or light green, rose, red, wine, copper-pink, cream, chartreuse and dark green.

BLOSSOM TYPES: The color, shapes and forms of African violet blossoms are many.

Some of the most important registered with the AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC are as follows:

BELL: A single bell-shaped blossom, usually found on miniature and semiminiature types.

CHIMERA OR PINWHEEL: Blossoms with stripes that radiate from the center.

DOUBLE: Blossoms with at least two layers of petals.

EDGED: Lobes of the blossoms are edged with any color. Many times known as Geneva edged, often lobes of blossoms are edged in white.

FANTASY: Blossoms are splotched, streaked or rayed with contrasting color or even deeper shades of the same color.

FRINGED: Blossoms have heavily serrated or fringed outer lobes.

MULTICOLOR: Blossoms with two or more colors.

SEMIDOUBLE: Blossoms that possess more than standard five lobes such as blossoms with a crest or tuft at the center, but less than a full second row of petals.

SINGLE: Blossoms have five lobes, the two upper lobes are smaller than the three lower ones and have one pair of stamens.

STAR: Blossoms have five lobes of about equal size and distance from one another and can be single or double. Double stars have an extra layer of petals but maintain the star form.

TWO-TONE: Blossoms have two or more shades of color.

WASP: Blossoms are single and each lobe is narrow, blossoms look wasp-like.

A GLOSSARY of terms pertaining to African violets.

ACID SOIL: Any soil that has a pH of less than 7.0. African violets are known to thrive well in a pH of about 6.4 to 6.7, slightly acid.

AKALINE SOIL: Soil that has a pH of greater than 7.0.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT: Light other than that provided by the sun.

CAPILLARY ACTION: The movement of water upward in a plant through the potting mixture, or a wick.

CHLOROPHYLL: The green pigment found in the chloroplasts; important in the absorption of light for use in the process of photosynthesis

CHROMOSOME: Microscopic, rod-like structure composed of individual units (genes) which pass on the plant's characteristics from generation to generation.

CULTIVARS: Plants developed by man through hybridization or by a mutation occurring in a collection of plants.

CUTTINGS: Leaf broken from a parent plant for the purpose of obtaining additional plants of identical type.

DISBUDDING: Removal of the flower buds or bud stems in order to hold back the blossoms opening for a later date.

DIVISION: The cutting or gently pulling apart of a plant having two or more crowns.

FERTILIZER: Any material added to the potting mixture or sprayed onto a plant that contains one or more of the sixteen essential plant food elements.

FLUORESCENT LIGHT: Fluorescent light lamps especially manufactured to emit light which is a close substitute for sunlight.

GERMINATE: The beginning growth of a seed.

HUMIDITY: The ratio of water vapor held in the air, beneficial to plant growth.

HUMUS: Partially decomposed or organic materials found in soil. It adds nutrients improving soil and retains moisture to provide a better environment for the growth of plant roots.

HYBRIDIZATION: Using the pollen from one African violet and transferring it to the stigma of another plant to obtain seed.

LEACH: The movement of water through the potting mixture dissolving nutrients and other chemicals to wash them out of the bottom of the potting mixture.

MAJOR NUTRIENTS: Six major plant food elements - nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, sulfur, calcium and magnesium - needed for plant growth and development.

MUTANT OR SPORT: Plants that have developed new features not seen in the parent plant can occur naturally or be chemically induced.

NECKY PLANT: A plant that has lost leaves from the lower portion of the plant exposing the main stalk above the potting mixture.

PASTEURIZATION: Purification process used to rid potting mixture of unwanted pests such as insects, diseases and nematodes in the soil.

PHOTOSYNTHESIS: The production of food in plants through a complex chemical reaction involving light, water and carbon dioxide.

PROGENY: The offspring of any type of cross.

PROPAGATION: Producing new plants either by sexual reproduction (seeds) or by asexual reproduction (vegetatively) from leaf cuttings, division, separation or tissue culture.

Propagating Streptocarpus leaves

With the large size of most strep leaves, you need to do a little surgery with your Xacto knife. Cut the large midrib right out, except at the leave tip, where you can create a fake stem. You can plant the leaf halves or cut them into smaller wedges. Bury the cut edge 1/4" into moist vermiculite or soil-less mix. Use a clear plastic cover for humidity.



Reprinted from "An Introduction to Gesneriads - African Violets and their Relatives"

Showcase

Marion's Enchanted Trail

Best Trailer

1999 National Show

Exhibited by: Pat Richards

Hybridized by: H. Pittman

Semiminiature Trailer



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Irish Dimples

Exhibited by: Emma Bygott

Hybridized by: S. Sorano

Miniature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

African Violet



Saintpaulia grotei

1999 Supplement Master List of Species and Cultivars

This is the 1999 supplement to the ninth edition of the *African Violet Master List of Species and Cultivars* (AVML, formerly MVL). The supplement includes all cultivars appearing in the 1999 Registration Reports, descriptions of non-registered cultivars provided by hybridizers during that same period, and changes to previous listings. The AVML and its supplements provide a timely, concise and accurate tool for classifying, judging and exhibiting African violets.

The "universal" IBM and MAC AVML database, and the "First Class" version for Windows only, are available on 3.5-inch floppy disks for your computer at \$12.50, and \$5.00 for updates as available. Contact the Beaumont office for current dates and computer details.

Send corrections and/or hybridizer's descriptions of cultivars to Lynn Lombard, 790 Ridgecrest Drive, Colfax, CA 95713, or e-mail to lombard@oro.net.

The 1999 Supplement to the African Violet Master List

Compiled by Lynn Lombard, African Violet Master List Chairman

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† designates change

Aca's Coral Lagoon (8794) 04/08/99 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble coral ruffled star. Dark green, heart-shaped, pebbled, scalloped/red back. **Large**

Aca's Flying Free (8757) 10/27/98 (J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble pink sticktite star. Medium green, plain, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

Aca's Purple Explosion (8795) 04/08/99 (J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble dark blue large ruffled star/purple overlay. Dark green, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Large**

Aca's Purple Peace (8796) 04/08/99 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble purple two-tone ruffled star. Dark green, quilted, wavy/red back. **Large**

Aca's Red Charmer (8797) 04/08/99 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble red ruffled star. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Large**

Aca's Red Face (8798) 04/08/99 (J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble red large star. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. **Large**

Aca's Ronnie Redhead (8799) 04/08/99 (J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble plum-red large star. Dark green, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Large**

Aca's Summer Parfait (8800) 04/08/99 (J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble pink and white frilled pansy. **Variegated** green, white and pink, plain, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**

†Apache Creation (8803) 04/24/99 (J. Munk) Semidouble rose ruffled star/raspberry rays, shading. **Variegated** green, white and pink, plain, wavy/red back. **Standard**

†Apache Delight (8804) 04/24/99 (J. Munk) Semidouble lavender frilled pansy/darker eye, edge. **Variegated** green, white and pink, plain/red back. **Standard**

Apache Friendship (8805) 04/24/99 (J. Munk) Semidouble-double medium pink ruffled star. **Variegated** green, white and pink, quilted, serrated/red back. **Large**

Apache Redcoats (8806) 04/24/99 (J. Munk) Semidouble red-mauve frilled star. **Variegated** green, white and pink, plain, wavy/red back. **Standard**

Aunt Marie (K. Stork) Single-semidouble orchid-rose two-tone pansy. Dark green, plain. **Semiminiature**

B-man's Auola (8828) 07/29/99 (B. Curcuruto) Single medium blue star. Medium green, plain, spooned. **Standard**

B-man's Gracie (8829) 07/29/99 (B. Curcuruto) Single-semidouble dark purple pansy. **Variegated** dark green, white and light pink, pointed, serrated. **Large**

B-man's Melila (8830) 07/29/99 (B. Curcuruto) Single medium pink ruffled pansy. **Variegated** medium green and white, pointed, serrated. **Large**

B-man's Moncibello (8831) 07/29/99 (B. Curcuruto) Single mauve ruffled pansy/variable white edge. **Variegated** dark green and light pink, pointed, serrated. **Large**

B-man's Palma (8832) 07/29/99 (B. Curcuruto) Double medium pink frilled pansy. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain, quilted, serrated. **Large**

Baby's Breath (T. Davis) Single white ruffled star/light pink patches. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

Baker's Anna-belle (8784) 02/27/99 (P. Davidson) Single magenta sticktite/variable white top petals. Dark green. **Standard**

Baker's Carrie (8785) 02/27/99 (P. Davidson) Double violet ruffled/variable white edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

Baker's Louise (8786) 02/27/99 (P. Davidson) Double pink. Light green, plain, pointed/red back. **Standard**

Baker's Lynn (8787) 02/27/99 (P. Davidson) Single light rose sticktite ruffled pansy/darker eye. Medium green, plain, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

Baker's Nancy	..... (8788) 02/27/99 (P. Davidson)	Double magenta star. Medium green, plain, scalloped/red back. Standard
Baker's Ruth	..... (8789) 02/27/99 (P. Davidson)	Single dark purple sticktite pansy/variable white. Medium green, pointed, glossy, serrated. Standard
Baker's Sarah	..... (8790) 02/27/99 (P. Davidson)	Single light mauve sticktite star/darker edge. Medium green, plain, quilted, wavy, scalloped/red back. Standard
Baker's Stacey	..... (8791) 02/27/99 (P. Davidson)	Double violet. Medium green, plain, quilted, scalloped/red back. Standard
Baker's Tatyana	..... (8792) 02/27/99 (P. Davidson)	Semidouble light pink/darker eye. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. Standard
Beethoven	..... (Volkmann)	Semidouble red star/white ruffled edge. Dark green, round. Standard
Brahms	..... (Volkmann)	Single red large star. Dark green, plain. Standard
Bright Note	..... (Volkmann)	Semidouble dark red large star. Dark green, plain. Standard
Carousel Pony	..... (S. Sorano)	Single chimera white bell/dark blue stripe. Variegated medium green and white. Minature trailer
†Cen-Tex Rose	..... (B. Foster)	Double pink. Dark green. Standard
Charisma	..... (K. Stork)	Semidouble white frilled pansy/raspberry sparkle edge. Light green, quilted, scalloped. Standard
Cherry Bomb	..... (S. Sorano)	Semidouble-double chimera light pink fluted star/fuchsia stripe, red fantasy. Variegated dark green and cream. Standard
Cherub Cheeks	..... (8780) 01/04/99 (J. Donaho)	Single white frilled star/variable light pink sparkle overlay. Medium green, quilted, scalloped. Standard
Chinook Wind	..... (K. Stork)	Single-semidouble red-coral pansy. Medium-dark green, glossy. Standard
Chopin	..... (Volkmann)	Single white large sticktite ruffled star. Medium green, round, quilted. Standard
Clarine	..... (Volkmann)	Single rose-red sticktite star. Dark green, round. Standard
Colette	..... (8781) 02/23/99 (N. Price)	Semidouble medium pink ruffled pansy. Medium green, quilted, scalloped/red back. Standard
†Cool Blue	..... (8758) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman)	Semidouble light blue. Medium green, plain. Semiminiature
Cool Touch	..... (S. Sorano)	Single chimera white frilled star/light blue stripe, eye. Medium green, plain. Standard
†Dancing Eyes	..... (8759) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman)	Semidouble pink/dark rose eye. Variegated green and white, plain. Semiminiature
Dancing Spirit	..... (Volkmann)	Single red sticktite star/white wavy edge. Dark green, plain. Standard
Darlin' Darlene	..... (T. Davis)	Single white sticktite star/fuchsia-pink patches. Dark green, plain. Standard
David Alan	..... (D. Harrington)	Single-semidouble red/white ruffled edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. Standard
Deadly Sting	..... (S. Sorano)	Semidouble dark blue-purple ruffled pansy/dark green tips, edge. Variegated medium green, white and cream. Standard
Dignitaire	..... (D. Croteau)	Semidouble medium blue large star. Dark green, quilted. Standard
Dream Weaver	..... (S. Sorano)	Semidouble white ruffled star/blue fantasy, pink eye and edge. Medium green, wavy. Standard
Dreamtime	..... (8823) 07/09/99 (M. Taylor)	Semidouble red star/pink fantasy. Dark green, ovate, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
Emergency	..... (K. Stork)	Single-semidouble red pansy/white fluted edge. Dark green, wavy/red back. Large
Eye Shadow	..... (8779) 01/04/99 (Condit/D. Harris)	Semidouble lavender frilled/purple eye, tips. Crown variegated green and cream, ovate, quilted, wavy. Standard
Feather Dance	..... (Volkmann)	Single medium pink large ruffled sticktite star. Dark green, plain. Standard
First Blush	..... (Volkmann)	Single pink sticktite star/white edge. Dark green. Standard

† Floozie	..... (8773) 11/14/98 (K. Stork) Semidouble-double vivid pink pansy/thin raspberry sparkled edge. Dark green, plain. Large
Flying North	..... (D. Harrington) Single-semidouble pink/white edge. Variegated dark green and pink, heart-shaped, glossy, wavy. Standard
Foster Trail	..... (8760) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Semidouble fuchsia. Medium green, plain. Semiminiature trailer
Frangine	..... (D. Croteau) Semidouble pink star/raspberry edge. Medium green, quilted. Standard
Frozen In Time	..... (S. Sorano) Single white sticktite cupped green and white fantasy, darker green edge. Variegated medium green and white. Standard
Funambule	..... (D. Croteau) Semidouble dark blue pansy/white and pink fantasy. Crown variegated dark green and pink, plain. Standard
Gazou	..... (8747) 08/10/98 (F. Pilon) Semidouble-double cream/light pink and beige-tipped top petals; thin white, variable green edge. Variegated medium green and white, serrated. Standard trailer
Georgia Starburst	..... (T. Davis) Single fuchsia sticktite star/wide white edge. Medium green, plain. Standard
Georgia Sunset	..... (T. Davis) Single light coral-pink sticktite star/white eye. Dark green, plain. Standard
Gina Marie	..... (S. Sorano) Single white sticktite fluted star/blue-purple tips. Medium green. Standard
† Gleeful Elf	..... (8761) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Double dark blue/white edge. Dark green, plain. Miniature
Gran's Roger	..... (8822) 07/08/99 (J. Regner) Semidouble lavender/white ruffled edge. Medium green, plain/red back. Standard
Hal's Bonnie Blue	..... (T. Davis) Single blue two-tone sticktite pansy/whitish top petals. Dark green, pointed. Standard
Happy Feet	..... (S. Sorano) Double lavender-pink large fluted star/blue and red fantasy. Dark green. Standard
Heaven's a-Calling	..... (T. Davis) Single white sticktite star/rose-pink overlay, raspberry sparkle edge. Dark green, plain, pointed. Standard
Heirloom Jewelry	..... (K. Stork) Single-semidouble dark purple-red pansy. Dark green, plain. Small standard
† Honey Berry	..... (8762) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Double fuchsia. Variegated green and white, plain. Semiminiature
† Honey Blue Angel	..... (8827) 07/12/99 (Goodsell/Pittman) Semidouble dark blue/white edge. Medium green girl foliage. Miniature
Ice Storm	..... (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble white pansy/blue eye, green edge. Medium green, plain. Semiminiature
Iceberg	..... (S. Sorano) Semidouble white/wide blue ruffled edge. Medium green. Standard
Impostor	..... (8774) 11/14/98 (K. Stork) Semidouble-double plum-wine star/white edge. Variegated dark green, cream and pink, plain. Standard
† Indian Trail	..... (4026) 09/04/80 (T. Kho) Single fuchsia-red. Plain, quilted, pebbled. Miniature trailer
Julie Kay	..... (S. Sorano) Double pink pansy. Variegated dark green, pink and cream, ruffled. Standard
Karl's Illusion	..... (8826) 07/09/99 (K. Dornbusch) Semidouble pink large frilled star/darker eye. Medium green, ovate, quilted, serrated/red back. Standard
Ken	..... (8763) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Double dark blue/white edge. Dark green, wavy. Miniature
Kev's Meteor Shower	..... (8756) 10/22/98 (K. Degner) Semidouble dark purple large ruffled star/coral fantasy. Variegated green, white and pink, heart-shaped, quilted, wavy, scalloped/red back. Large
King David	..... (8782) 02/23/99 (D. Thompson) Semidouble chimera blue frilled star/white stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted, scalloped. Standard
Laini	..... (8748) 08/10/98 (F. Pilon) Double pink large/white-marked lower petals. Variegated medium green, white and pink, heart-shaped, quilted, serrated. Standard trailer
Liszt	..... (Volkmann) Double medium pink large star/white edge. Dark green, round. Standard
Little Pushover	..... (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble fuchsia star. Dark green. Semiminiature

Louiman Sequo	..... (8749) 08/10/98 (F. Pilon) Semidouble-double blue-purple ruffled. Medium green, quilted, serrated. Standard
Lucille Woolever	..... (D. Harrington) Double pink/white edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. Standard
Lyon's Bunny Hop	..... (S. Sorano) Semidouble ivory star/blue fantasy, rose tips. Dark green. Semiminiature
Lyon's Early Spring	..... (S. Sorano) Semidouble white large star/variable blue eye, edge. Variegated medium green and white. Standard
Lyon's Kismet	..... (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double light orchid ruffled pansy/dark green-tipped top petals. Variegated dark green and white, wavy. Large
Lyon's Little Sweetheart	..... (S. Sorano) Double blue star/white edge. Medium green. Semiminiature
Lyon's Monique	..... (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble chimera white, ivory and cream/light blue shaded stripe. Medium green. Standard
Lyon's Shooting Stars	..... (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark blue cupped star/white edge. Dark green, pebbled. Semiminiature
Lyon's Wild Card	..... (S. Sorano) Single-semidouble chimera white pansy/orchid stripe. Medium green, quilted. Standard
Mae's Halcyon's Horizon	.... (8752) 08/31/98 (G. McDonald) Semidouble chimera white pansy/pink stripe. Variegated medium green and cream, plain, quilted. Semiminiature
Mac's Overly Ostentatious	.. (8753) 08/31/98 (G. McDonald) Double white/pink and blue fantasy. Variegated green and white, plain. Miniature
Mac's Virtually Velvet	..... (8754) 08/31/98 (G. McDonald) Semidouble coral red/blue overlay. Variegated green, pink and white, ovate, serrated. Semiminiature
Madam President	..... (8801) 04/17/99 (C. Cornibe) Single-semidouble-double light lavender two-tone frilled pansy/variable darker tips, green and-or maroon-purple edge. Variegated green, white and pink. Standard
Mama Mia	..... (8802) 04/17/99 (C. Cornibe) Semidouble-double pink frilled pansy/variable purple band; fuchsia-purple overlay, white edge. Variegated green and white. Semiminiature
Meghan's Bay	..... (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double pale blue star. Medium green. Standard
†Miss Santa Cruz	..... (8729) 06/03/98 (C. Cornibe) Semidouble-double fuchsia-pink two-tone frilled/thin white and-or green edge, variable darker tips. Variegated green, white and pink. Standard
Missing You	..... (D. Croteau) Semidouble purple star/raspberry edge. Variegated green and pink, plain, quilted. Standard
Misty Moonbeam	..... (S. Sorano) Semidouble dark pink fluted star/dark blue fantasy. Dark green, wavy. Standard
Mosaique	..... (D. Croteau) Semidouble medium blue large star/pink fantasy. Medium green, plain, quilted. Large
Mozart	..... (Volkmann) Semidouble red ruffled star. Dark green, round, quilted. Standard
My Smokey Trail	..... (8764) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Double medium blue. Medium green, plain. Semiminiature trailer
Neptune's Jewels	..... (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double chimera white large star/dark blue stripe, fantasy. Medium green, plain. Standard
Northern Seduction	..... (D. Croteau) Semidouble red large star/darker veins. Variegated dark green and pink. Standard
Number One	..... (8751) 08/14/98 (A. Jantzen/G. Crouch) Semidouble violet-blue. Medium green, plain, quilted Large
Opera Doc	..... (8793) 03/08/99 (S. McGaha) Double blush pink/variable green tips. Dark green, plain, pointed. Miniature trailer
†Optimara® Little Azurite	.. (7915) 07/06/93 (Holtkamp) Single purple-blue/thin white edge. Medium green, ovate, glossy, hairy, serrated/red back. Miniature
Orchard's Night Light	..... (8814) 06/08/99 (R. Wilson) Single white star/pink blush. Dark green, plain, quilted, pebbled. Semiminiature
Penny Lover	..... (S. Sorano) Semidouble white large ruffled pansy/fuchsia-pink eye, edge. Variegated medium green and white. Standard
†Peppy Blue	..... (8765) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Semidouble dark blue/white edge. Dark green, plain. Semiminiature
†Perk Up	..... (L. Lyon) Single-semidouble fuchsia. Plain. Semiminiature trailer

†Petite Ruby	(8766) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Double fuchsia. Variegated green and white, plain. Miniature
Pink Symphony	(S. Sorano) Semidouble pale pink large star/dark pink-tinged edge. Dark green, plain. Standard
†Planet Kid	(8767) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Double pale blue/white edge. Light green, ruffled. Miniature
Postmark	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble white frilled pansy/light purple eye, edge. Light-medium green, quilted. Standard
Prince Of Blues	(8783) 02/23/99 (C. Thompson) Double white ruffled star/variable blue center, rays; green edge. Medium green, pointed, wavy. Standard
Queen Anne	(8821) 06/26/99 (N. Price) Semidouble purple ruffled pansy. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. Standard
Radiant Glow	(T. Davis) Single burgundy ruffled star/white eye, edge. Dark green, plain. Standard
Ray Of Hope	(S. Sorano) Single chimera white sticktite frilled pansy/pink stripe. Medium green, quilted. Standard
Rebel's Astro Spinner	(R. Bann) Single-semidouble chimera pink large fluted star/wine stripe, purple fantasy, wide white edge. Medium green, cupped, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
Rebel's Barbara	(R. Bann) Semidouble-double pink two-tone pansy/ruffled top petals, rose tips. Variegated dark green and cream, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
Rebel's Beauty	(R. Bann) Single-semidouble pink large ruffled pansy/wide red sparkle edge. Variegated dark green and beige, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
Rebel's Binky	(R. Bann) Semidouble pink two-tone pansy/red ruffled edge. Variegated dark green and rose-beige, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
Rebel's Blaze Spinner	(8815) 06/14/99 (R. Bann) Semidouble chimera white pansy/red stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted, glossy. Standard
Rebel's Charmin' Pink	(R. Bann) Semidouble pink two-tone ruffled pansy/rose shading. Variegated medium green and cream, pointed, glossy, serrated. Large
Rebel's Cherie	(R. Bann) Double pink two-tone large star/red eye. Variegated dark green and rose-cream, plain, quilted, glossy/red back. Standard
Rebel's Cranberry Creme	(8816) 06/14/99 (R. Bann) Semidouble red-violet large pansy/darker markings, white fluted edge. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Large
Rebel's Cucumber Kool	(R. Bann) Semidouble lavender-purple two-tone pansy/purple frilled edge. Variegated medium green and cream, plain, quilted, glossy. Standard
Rebel's Faith	(8817) 06/14/99 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble red pansy/darker eye, variable white edge. Dark green, pointed, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
Rebel's Hyacinth	(R. Bann) Semidouble purple large fluted star. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
Rebel's Maria	(R. Bann) Semidouble-double peach-pink two-tone ruffled pansy. Variegated dark green and beige, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
Rebel's Midnight Sky	(8818) 06/14/99 (R. Bann) Semidouble dark blue frilled pansy. Variegated dark green and cream, pointed, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
†Rebel's Purple Heath	(8819) 06/14/99 (R. Bann) Semidouble purple large ruffled star. Variegated medium green and cream, ovate, quilted, glossy/red back. Large
Rebel's Rhubarb Frost	(R. Bann) Semidouble pink pansy/white-green ruffled edge. Variegated medium green and cream, spooned, quilted, glossy. Standard
Rebel's Valiant	(8820) 06/14/99 (R. Bann) Semidouble-double dark blue star/white ruffled edge. Variegated medium green and cream, plain, quilted, glossy. Large
Red Sparky	(Volkmann) Semidouble red-violet ruffled. Dark green, plain. Standard
Red Summit	(S. Sorano) Double fuchsia fluted pansy/wide white edge. Dark green. Standard
Rivale	(D. Croteau) Semidouble light pink star/raspberry edge. Medium green, quilted. Standard
Rob's Argyle Socks	(8808) 05/31/99 (R. Robinson) Double pink star/blue fantasy. Crown variegated green, pink, beige and tan/red back. Semiminiature

Rob's Berry Shake	.....	(8809) 05/31/99 (R. Robinson) Double light pink/fuchsia-pink fantasy. Black-green, serrated/red back. Semiminiature
Rob's Little Pueblo	.....	(8810) 05/31/99 (R. Robinson) Semidouble coral large star. Dark green, serrated/red back. Semiminiature
Rob's Loose Goose	.....	(8811) 05/31/99 (R. Robinson) Single-semidouble white sticktite large frilled star. Black-green, serrated/red back. Semiminiature
Rob's Miss Sniffles	.....	(8812) 05/31/99 (R. Robinson) Semidouble-double white pansy/irregular red-marked edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted, glossy. Semiminiature
Rob's Mister Sneezy	.....	(8813) 05/31/99 (R. Robinson) Semidouble-double light to medium burgundy-red. Dark green, pointed, quilted, glossy/red back. Semiminiature
Robert Mayer	.....	(D. Croteau) Semidouble pink large star/raspberry edge. Dark green, plain, quilted. Large
Rodeo Pioneer	.....	(8807) 04/24/99 (J. Munk) Semidouble red-purple ruffled star. Dark green, plain, pointed/red back. Standard
Roll Along Blue	.....	(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double dark blue star. Medium green. Semiminiature trailer
Roll Along Pink	.....	(S. Sorano) Semidouble-double pink/red-lavender overlay. Medium green. Semiminiature trailer
Sacajawea	.....	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble rose-coral large fluted star. Medium green. Standard
Sandy Trail	.....	(8768) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Single fuchsia sticktite pansy/white tips. Medium green, plain. Miniatute trailer
Sharon's Way	.....	(8824) 07/09/99 (M. Taylor) Single-semidouble peach-pink frilled pansy. Dark green, ovate, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. Standard
Shy Romance	.....	(Volkmann) Single red sticktite star/wide white ruffled edge. Medium green. Standard
†Silent Prayer	.....	(8775) 11/14/98 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble lavender large star/darker frilled edge. Medium green, plain. Large
Simply Wonderful	.....	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble pale lavender star/dark purple edge. Medium green, plain. Large
Smoky Joe	.....	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble smoky plum two-tone pansy/darker top petals. Dark green. Large
Smoldering Pink	.....	(S. Sorano) Semidouble light pink star/pink and fuchsia shaded tips, white edge. Dark green. Semiminiature
†Smooch Me	.....	(8776) 11/14/98 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble rose-pink pansy/variable red eye. Dark green, quilted, glossy, serrated. Standard
Solitaire	.....	(S. Sorano) Semidouble chimera white frilled pansy/purple stripe. Dark green. Standard
Sonoma Bingo	.....	(B. Borck) Double light blue two-tone star/white fantasy. Variegated dark green and cream, plain/red back. Standard
Sonoma Blue Sliver	.....	(B. Borck) Semidouble lavender-blue star/white fantasy. Variegated dark green and cream, plain/red back. Standard
Sonoma Look Twice	.....	(B. Borck) Semidouble light lavender-blue large star/darker rays, white fantasy, rose overlay. Variegated dark green and cream/red back. Standard
Sonoma Pacific Coast	.....	(B. Borck) Semidouble-double medium blue. Variegated dark green and cream/red back. Standard
Sonoma Pale Face	.....	(B. Borck) Semidouble white star/variable pink blush. Variegated dark green and cream/red back. Standard
Sonoma Ringo	.....	(B. Borck) Semidouble medium pink large star/variable white fantasy. Variegated dark green and cream/red back. Standard
Sorcerer	.....	(8825) 07/09/99 (M. Taylor) Single-semidouble dark purple frilled pansy. Dark green, quilted, wavy, serrated. Standard
Special Touch	.....	(Volkmann) Single red sticktite large star/white edge. Dark green. Standard
Spectacular Blue	.....	(S. Sorano) Double bright blue large star. Medium green. Large
Spindletop	.....	(8769) 10/28/98 (H. Pittman) Single-semidouble white sticktite pansy/fuchsia center. Dark green, plain. Standard

Spring Flower	.....	(Volkmann) Double medium pink star. Dark green, plain. Standard
Stage-struck	.....	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble pink large fluted star. Dark green. Standard
Star Eclipse	.....	(T. Davis) Single medium blue fluted star/white eye, edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. Standard
Steven Dennis	.....	(D. Harrington) Semidouble-double red. Medium green, quilted. Standard
Strauss	.....	(Volkmann) Single dark blue sticktite ruffled star. Dark green, quilted. Standard
Summer Stars	.....	(P. Harris) Single pink large star/purple fantasy. Medium green, pointed, serrated. Semiminiature trailer
Susie Sunshine	.....	(S. Sorano) Single-semidouble white wavy star/dark yellow markings, hot pink edge. Medium green, plain. Standard
Sweet Sam	.....	(P. Harris) Semidouble pink two-tone. Medium green, pointed, quilted, serrated/red back. Semiminiature trailer
Taffy Lilac	.....	(J. Swift) Semidouble white star/lavender markings, lighter lavender edge. Medium green, plain. Standard
Taffy Snow	.....	(J. Swift) Double white star. Medium green, plain. Standard
†Teen Thunder	..... (8770) 10/28/98	(H. Pittman) Double blue/white edge. Medium green, quilted. Semiminiature
†Texas Space Dust	..... (8771) 10/28/98	(H. Pittman) Semidouble light pink pansy. Variegated green and white, plain. Miniatute
The Madam	..... (8755) 09/30/98	(P. Harris) Single-semidouble pale pink bell/raspberry-rose tips. Medium-dark green, quilted. Standard trailer
Ti-Mine	..... (8750) 08/10/98	(F. Pilon) Single pink star. Variegated black-green, white and pink, glossy, serrated Standard trailer
Toy Kaleidoscope	.....	(P. Harris) Single lavender pansy/white stripe, lavender fantasy, edge. Variegated green and white. Semiminiature trailer
Up In Flames	.....	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble dark red pansy/purple tinge. Medium green, pointed. Standard
Vallarta Cielo Azul	.....	(G. Beck) Single dark blue. Dark green/red back. Semiminiature trailer
Vallarta Oceano Bonito	.....	(G. Beck) Single white and light purple. Light green. Semiminiature trailer
Vallarta Palapa	.....	(G. Beck) Single medium pink. Dark green, quilted, serrated. Semiminiature trailer
†Velvet Brocade	..... (8777) 11/14/98	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble vivid purple star/white edge. Variegated dark green, cream and pink, plain, quilted/red back. Standard
†Verdict	..... (8778) 11/14/98	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble lavender-purple two-tone pansy. Medium-dark green, quilted, glossy, wavy. Standard
Violets Aglow	.....	(T. Davis) Single white pansy/purple-red patches, white edge. Dark green. Standard
Volkmann's Cardinal	.....	(Volkmann) Double purple-red large star. Medium green, plain. Standard
Volkmann's Handel	.....	(Volkmann) Semidouble medium red/white ruffled edge. Dark green, plain. Standard
Volkmann's Radiant Glow	.....	(Volkmann) Semidouble light rose large ruffled star. Medium green. Standard
Volkmann's Carol	.....	(Volkmann) Semidouble dark rose large star. Medium green, plain. Standard
Volkmann's Susie	.....	(Volkmann) Semidouble dark pink star/white ruffled edge. Medium green, plain. Standard
Volkmann's White Dawn	.....	(Volkmann) Semidouble white ruffled. Medium green, plain. Standard
Wichita Connection	.....	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble white frilled/pink eye, variable green tints and fuchsia sparkle. Light green. Standard
Wild Red	.....	(D. Harrington) Double red. Medium-dark green, quilted. Large
†Wishful Teen	..... (8772) 10/28/98	(H. Pittman) Double bright pink. Variegated dark green and white, plain. Miniatute



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

*Sinningia
Cardinalis
'Redcoat'
Hybrid*

Exhibited by: *Dale Martens*



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Pink Dove

Best in Class

AVS of Canada

1999 National Show

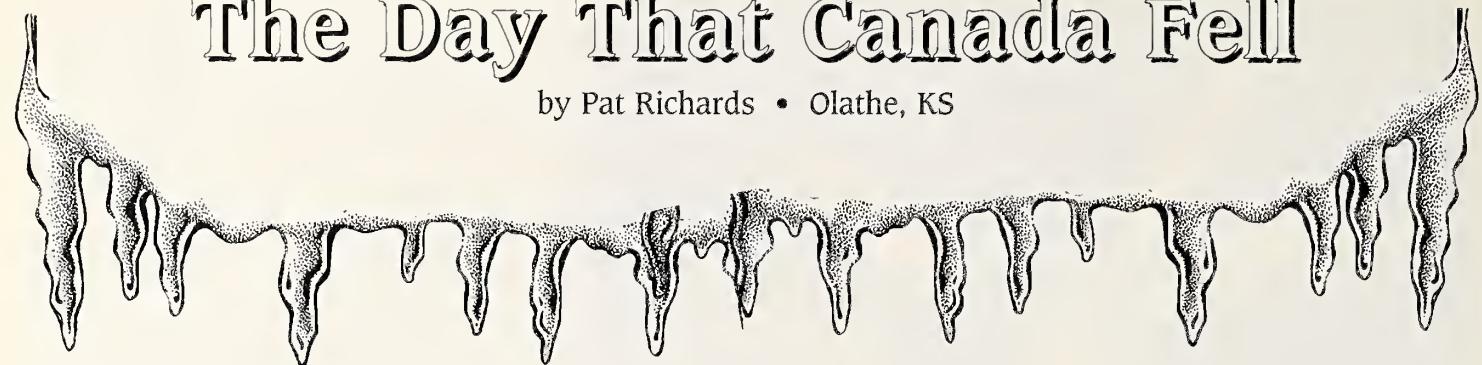
Exhibited by: Beverly Williams

Hybridized by: S. Sorano

Miniature

The Day That Canada Fell

by Pat Richards • Olathe, KS



For forty-six years, the African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City had held a February show. Once, stalwart club members recalled holding the show in a blizzard. Once, they recalled bringing their plants in 15 degree weather. But, they never recalled anything like 1996's show, better known as, The Day That Canada Fell.

Monday before the show, forecasters were calling for freezing rain on Wednesday night and blizzard-like conditions on Thursday. In a moment of brilliance, the show chairman determined show set-up could occur Wednesday before the calamity started, avoiding sure disaster. The set-up crew was summoned and faithfully heeded the call for help. Set-up went without incident.

The Thursday snows went south, literally, to Oklahoma. But alas, forecasters and Mother Nature had something else up their sleeves: Canada was sagging! High pressure had held a huge bulge of some of the coldest, most bone chilling air up in Canada. Local meteorologists said this enormous air mass had to sag sometime, and that "sometime" was in the wee hours of Friday morning. By the time club members would be bringing their plants for entries, the temperature outside would be 10 to 15 below. "Oh, that's all," you say.

But wait, Ma Nature and those weathermen weren't through yet. "Sagging such as this," the weathermen said, "is accompanied by high winds", so our "feels like" temperature was downsized to 40 to 50 below!

Now, we all love our violets, and we all love to show off our violets, and we all love to buy violets. But who in their right mind would expose themselves and/or their violets to this kind of abuse?

The show chairman and the club president were both relative newcomers to the club. They were under heavy pressure from their significant others (one of whom decided members of the club were "crazy" and meant it!) to call the whole thing off. But for a telephone glitch (probably because of the cold), the deed would have been done. Instead, both went to bed, dreaming of failure, of being crazy, and of sagging Canada. They both underestimated the dedication, loyalty and downright stubbornness of club members.

Dawn came. Frigid, colder than cold, off the celsius scale. Amidst this, plants were placed lovingly into warmed cars with

heaters blasting. Plants that had been double boxed for double insulation. Plants that could become sacrificial lambs for the sake of following through with our duty to the public and to selves. Members brought their best plants.

And then, an amazing thing happened. Now, the meteorologists would disagree, but I believe Ma Nature looked lovingly upon such individuals and smiled. She somehow forgot the wind. She forgot the snow. She learned it is human nature to respond to challenge with even greater determination.

The judges came. Three drove up from Wichita (bless their violet-lovin' souls), three from Lawrence, one of whom was undeterred despite frozen water pipes in her home, and three local judges. These courageous individuals braved the weather for the love of violets.

They judged a show of 164 horticulture entries and 13 designs. They awarded Best in Show to near perfect 'Maverick's Tight Jeans' grown by Gene Loveland. But if you ask me, everyone who entered a plant on The Day That Canada Fell was a winner.

Aftermath: We all know the show itself is only one aspect of show weekend. Sales must be made in order to help pay the costs of the show. Temperatures on Saturday morning opened at 15 below, and, despite the gloom and doom predicted by some, "crazy" members of the public showed up, not only to view the show but especially to buy violets! We had a slow and steady stream of regulars all day long! It was truly amazing! Sunday saw a tropical paradise when the low only got to 2 below, and even more regulars came out that day. Usually, we will do three-quarters of our business on Saturday. This year sales on Saturday and Sunday were almost even and we hardly saw a drop in the total!

Most important though, the club, having to overcome illness, operations, infirmities and family tragedies, in addition to Mother Nature's insensitivity, still managed to be awarded AVSA's blue rosette for their unfailing efforts.

Is there something to be learned from all this? Indeed! While violet lovers may be crazy, they are dedicated, courageous and loyal, whether they are club members or the violet growing public. Furthermore, never underestimate them, for similar to Canadian Mounties, "Violet lovers always hold their show!"

A QUICK AND EASY PLANT STAND

by Mary Ann Switzer • Chesterfield, MO



Several years ago some of my friends started growing *Streptocarpus* and I decided I wanted to try my hand at it, too. But my plant stands were already full of African violets and I didn't want to part with any of them. What was I to do? The only logical conclusion was to get another plant stand. But I was busy and didn't want to take the time to build one of wood.

While cruising the hardware store I found my solution: steel shelving.

I bought a four-shelf unit that resembles a baker's rack for about \$100, on sale. It stands 74" high and the shelves are 48" by 18". It is a sturdy unit, the manufacturer boasts that each shelf will hold up to 500 pounds. Easy, no tool assembly is advertised. Actually a hammer and a scrap block of wood is needed. And, while you could assemble it by yourself, it is much better to have a helper. It goes together in about a half an hour or less. You decide the distance between shelves.

I bought a black unit, but the units are also available in chrome or white. These are nice looking units that don't need to be relegated to the basement. They would look good in a kitchen or den. You can also buy shelves individually. So you could add a shelf to the unit. My shelves were spaced far apart because I wanted to grow tall *Streptocarpus* with the pots on reservoirs. For growing African violets you could add a shelf, and have four lighted shelves instead of three.

I hung shoplight fixtures from the wire-rack shelves using

"S" hooks and chains. Lots of light falls through to the shelf below since the shelves are wire racks. I soon found that I was spilling when watering and the water was falling on the light fixture below. Concluding that this was not good, I bought lightweight clear plastic sheeting at the fabric store and cut it to fit the shelves. Now the light passes through, but spilled water doesn't.

I had read that *Streptocarpus* need more light than African violets, so I bought a roll of a product called "Lumen Booster Mylar" and hung it on the wall behind the plant stand. This Mylar, which is referred to as "mirror on a roll" is 4 feet

wide and 1 mil thick. I purchased it at a garden center. I really like the mirror effect. It makes it look like you have twice as many plants. After using the Mylar behind the *Streptocarpus* for a year, I decided that the African violets looked sad against the concrete basement wall. So they got Mylar too! My basement violet room looks very cheerful now. As always, it is important to rotate your plants once a week to achieve good symmetry.

In the photo you will notice that I grow my *Streptocarpus* on reservoirs using the wick watering method. I know that some experts recommend watering from the top. But since I travel frequently, wick watering is best for me. It is important that your plants fit your lifestyle.

In conclusion, I recommend that you give these shelves a try if you want an easy to assemble unit that is nice looking.

Showcase

Rob's Zero Gravity

Exhibited by: *Emma Bygott*

Hybridized by: *R. Robinson*

Miniature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

B-Man's Melila

Best in Show

AVS of Canada

1999 National Show

Exhibited & Hybridized by:

Bruno Curcuruto

Large



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

"Spindletop"

Best in Class

1999 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by: Bill Foster

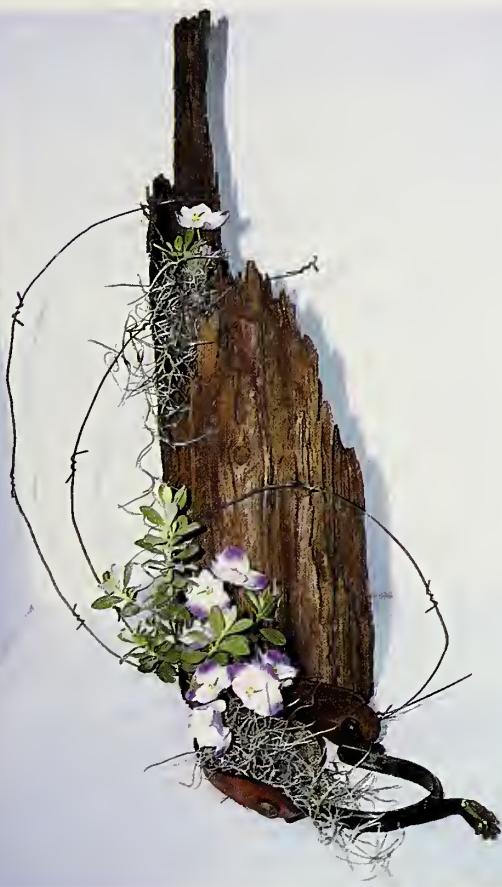


Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

"Texas Heritage"

Best in Class

1999 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by: Phyllis Enos

Trailers - My Favorite African Violets

by Nancy Manozzi

Since the trailer variety is my favorite African violet, I thought I would share some of the information I've acquired along the way. I think they're easier to grow since they do better in natural light versus artificial light. Also, the symmetry is important, but not as much as in a standard variety, and it is much easier to maintain. If you break a leaf or have a leaf that is damaged, you can remove it without spoiling the appearance of the entire plant.

Anne and Frank Tinari were the first hybridizers of the trailing African violet, using the species *Saintpaulia grotei* and pollen from a standard violet. *S. grotei*'s unusual feature was its ability to branch and cascade over the pot's rim. This first cross produced hundreds of scraggly stems and dull blue flowers. Luckily, one seedling they called 'Wild Girl' showed some promise and they placed its pollen on *S. grotei* flowers.

By 1954, a few years later, the Tinaris had produced four attractive hybrids, but when *S. grotei* was crossed with any other hybrid, the trailing characteristic was almost completely lost. As a result, interest would not occur for another 10 years!

Lyndon Lyon became interested in developing a better trailing violet around 1966. 'Violet Trail' was his first real success. This single purple flowering violet could fan its foliage in a circle 12" across and completely cover the sides of the pot. And the trailers took off from there!

Lyon used the species *Saintpaulia magungensis* for his research to get the semi and mini trailers. The results were two great trailers, 'Pixie Blue' and 'Pipsqueek'.

Propagation of trailers may be done by root division, suckers, or putting a leaf down. Their cultural requirements are pretty much the same as other African violets:

1. Ideal temperatures between 70° and 72° during the day and around 68° at night. Of course, this is not always possible. They can take quite a variance, but growth will be slow or nonexistent if lower than 60° or higher than 80°. A difference of more than ten degrees between daytime and nighttime temperatures can produce problems.
2. A light, airy soil is preferable, due to the fine root structure of violets. "Soilless" mixes have become quite popular.
3. Fertilizers with a formula of 20-20-20, alternating with 12-36-14 have been very effective for me. I also use plain water several times a month.
4. Repotting should be done every six months to a year.



5. Disbudding has not proven successful for me with my trailers. I just cross my fingers, hold my breath and pray that they will be in full bloom before a show!
6. As for pot size, I don't stick with the 1/3rd rule (that the pot should be 1/3rd the size of the plant). Trailers seem to grow quite fast, so I usually go with a pot size that doesn't look too ridiculous, knowing it will soon be filled.
7. Natural light over artificial light for trailers - this works in many cases. And it sure helps when one's light stands become filled!

Tips on how to have a good looking trailer:

1. Do not remove suckers - they are needed for a dense, bushy plant and the crowns of these suckers will, hopefully, grow to cascade over the sides of the pot. Most important, trailers must have at least three crowns. Occasionally (and depending upon the variety) a plant will not sucker. If this happens, pinch off the center crown (small leaves at the crown) and since it now has no growing point, it will be forced to send out suckers
2. Pinch an inch from each stem to force new growth which will help create a bushy plant.
3. Remove cross leaves (leaves that are blocking flower stalks).

Hope this encourages you to try the trailer varieties. Good luck and happy growing!

*Reprinted from "Ye Bay Stater",
publication of the Bay State AVS*

Big Enough!

by Byron Borck

"My plants never get THAT big! What am I doing wrong?"

"I never get that many blossoms!"

"My violets never look like that!"

These comments are made quite often by the public, as well as other violet growers, when viewing a display of well-grown violets. I've even made these comments myself over the years.

So what am I doing wrong and why don't my plants look like the ones I saw? Maybe nothing! But let's explore those opening comments.

Growing a plant to a large size is not as difficult as it seems, nor does it take years. It is helpful to know if the variety being grown is supposed to get big. Some hybridizers specialize in plants that stay small enough to grow on a window sill, or even smaller as miniatures and semi-miniatures; so it is helpful to know as much as you can about the hybridizer and the variety. A good place to start checking is in the AVSA's Master Variety List. This list will tell you if the variety grows large or if it is a normal sized standard, a small or compact standard, semi-miniature, etc.

Once you have obtained a large-growing variety, then it is up to you to apply good cultural practices so the plant will grow to its full potential. Keeping the plant disbudded will send the plant's energy into helping it grow larger and more symmetrical.

Stunting or dwarfing a plant can easily happen. Plants that are kept in a cold growing environment will grow slower

and have smaller leaves. Keeping a plant in a small pot or not potting to a larger pot on time will limit the size of a plant. Not keeping the soil evenly moist will also result in smaller plants.

The number of blossoms a plant has in bloom is determined by heredity and, once again, cultural conditions. Many of the older varieties do not seem to produce the large number of blooms that the new varieties do. Keeping a plant disbudded for six months or even longer will increase the number of blossom stems, which increases the blossom count.

In summary, to grow a large violet:

- Start with a large-growing variety
- Keep it disbudded
- Remove suckers as they form
- Remove immature, distorted or damaged leaves
- Pot up when needed
- Support leaves with a plant ring
- Keep leaves clean by washing plant regularly
- Give plant room to grow

Keep in mind that cultural conditions and the environment that the plants grow in will affect how violets grow and how they look. Soil, water, light, temperature, fertilizer, etc. all contribute to blossom and leaf color.

Reprinted from the California Council News

DISBUDDING

by Kim Thorogood • Australia

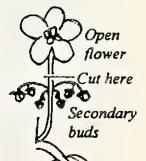
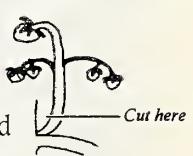
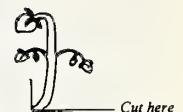
We all know that the ultimate aim of any grower is to have a healthy plant that blooms profusely. Certainly, when we all start growing it would break our heart to accidentally break off a flower stem. With disbudding, it's deliberate. Yes folks, we make a conscious effort to remove all or most of the flower stalks. It's really painful when you first start but when you recognize the advantages of this way of doing things it becomes a bit easier.

Disbudding promotes even growth of the foliage of the plant. Instead of having tiny leaves in the center because the light hasn't been able to penetrate, these leaves can grow at a normal rate. In fact, the growth will even accelerate because energy is not going into the production of blooms. Once disbudding ceases there will be a larger head of flowers to make it all worthwhile. The process also means you can have some control over the time of flowering of each plant.

Plants should be disbudded for up to 8 weeks before a show for doubles, 7 weeks for semidoubles and 6 weeks for singles. Minis and semi-minis need to have a stub left on the plant else they will sucker profusely.

Disblooming is where the first bloom is removed prior to the show so the other blooms can use the energy to develop and open at roughly the same time.

Reprinted from the Early Morn AV Group, Inc. Newsletter, Australia



Just in time for the Holidays! Folio Art Glass Products from AVSA



Folio Art Glass Products from AVSA

Unlike many traditional art pieces, fused glass is meant to be more than merely decorative. Fused glass is both food and dishwasher safe.

During the manufacturing process the glassware is delicately decorated by hand, using enamel powders layered between clear glass. The piece is then placed on a mold and fired at nearly 1500 degrees. This causes the glass to take the

shape of the mold and allows the glass and enamel to fuse. The process creates both a texture and bubble pattern, which combine to make each piece truly unique.

Shipping time will be from 4-8 weeks from the AVSA Office. AVSA does not have an inventory of the glass items and will order them as required.

Name	Address	AVSA Membership #
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Code	Item	Price	Quantity	Subtotal
A	Lamp	\$49.00		
B	Candleholder	\$24.00		
C	10" Soft Fluted Bowl	\$22.00		
D	10" Sharp Fluted Plate	\$22.00		
E	8" Fluted Bowl	\$14.00		
F	8" Flat Plate	\$14.00		
G	7" Flat Cake Plate	\$12.00		
H	7" Berry Bowl	\$12.00		
I	10" Flat Dinner Plate	\$22.00		
J	16" Platter	\$65.00		
K	Sun Catchers	\$8.00 ea.		
Sub-Total				

Christmas Ornaments from AVSA

L	Rob's Fuddy Duddy	\$14.95		
M	Ms. Smartypants	\$14.95		
(2 ornaments for \$25.00)			Sub-Total	
			Total	



VISA / MasterCard #

Expiration Date

Signature

The Effects of Light on the Growth of African Violets

A Science Project by Laura Ulrich, 7 Grade, Reading, PA



My Science Fair project begins with buying 6 of the same African violet plant in a local discount store.



At home, I removed all the flowers, buds, dead or damaged leaves, and repotted them.



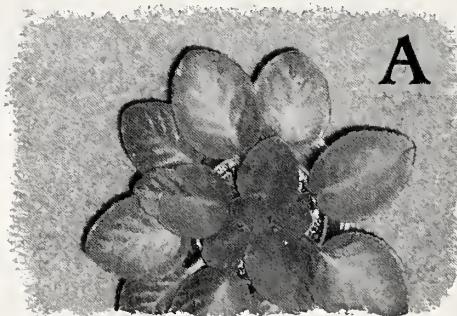
Two of the plants were placed under my Mom's fluorescent lights, along with her other violets.



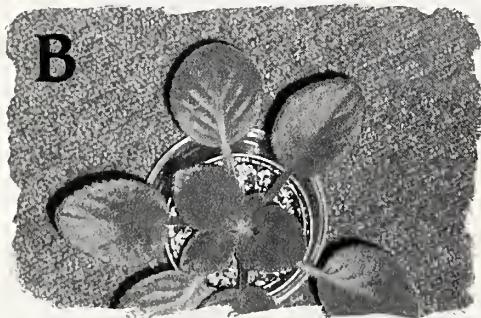
Two others were placed near a window to grow in natural light.



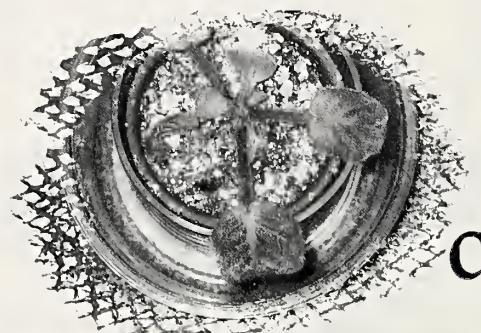
The last two plants were placed on a table far from a light source. All the plants were watered with the same fertilizer. After 3 months, I chose only one from each growing area for my project display.



Plant A - Grown under the lights, grew very well. It had nice leaves and had gotten much bigger.



Plant B - Grown by the window had nice, healthy leaves, too. But, they were not as full as the leaves on Plant A. It did not grow very much.



Plant C - Eventually died because it did not get enough light.

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck

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DONORS: In order to have your donation listed correctly in the African Violet Magazine column please tell me how to list your NAME or CLUB NAME, CITY, STATE.

Donations received from June 1, 1999 - July 31, 1999

Casper Bloomers AVC, Casper, WY	\$20.00	Diane Keller, Austin, TX	\$5.00	First Lakeland AVS, Lakeland, FL	\$25.00
Wichita AV Study Group, Wichita, KS	15.00	Cynthia O'Brien, Norwalk, CT	5.00	<i>In memory of Chris Howell</i>	
Gulf AV Club, Cape Coral, FL	10.00	Florence S. Roberts, Volcan Chiriqui, Panama	10.00	First AVS of Spartanburg, SC	10.00
W.E. Blankenstein, Wilmington, DE	50.00	Kathryn Thielan, Belleville, IL	5.00	Hoosier AVS, Crown Point, IN	10.00
<i>In memory of Lyndon Lyon</i>		Leslie Cox, Newbury Park, CA	5.00	Nancy A. Reimer, St. Augustine, FL	10.00
Central Jersey AVS, Fords, NJ	5.00	Mrs. Max Krakofsky, Chelsea, MA	5.00	AV Study Group, St. Anthony, MN	25.00
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Bergen County AVS, Hackensack, NJ	25.00	Manikhode Bounpheng, Paris, France	10.00	Hilda Johnson, Cambridge, MA	10.00
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<i>In memory of Sara Wilson,</i>		Susie Quon, Arcadia, CA	50.00	Topeka AVS, Topeka, KS	20.00
<i>Paula Foster's mother</i>		Ms. Antonia DeMattio, Wheat Ridge, CO	10.00	<i>In memory of Catherine Lowell</i>	
Pacific Northwest Judges Council, Seattle, WA	50.00	Beverly Volk, Allentown, PA	2.00	Juanita Freeman, Altadena, CA	2.00
<i>In memory of long time members we lost last year</i>		Alice Downing, Sebastopol, CA	2.00	Phyllis Gridley, Golden Valley, MN	3.00
<i>Jeanne Myers, Linda Holt and Valerie Miller</i>		AV Club of Burlington County, NJ	15.00	Susan J. Fraley, Albany, NY	5.00
Melinda Murphy, Blue Springs, MO	2.00	<i>In lieu of judging expenses for Frank Senna,</i>		James Frechette, Myakka City, FL	10.00
Anita Mc Creary, Pasadena, MD	2.00	<i>Laura Shannon and Jan Murasko</i>		Kathryn Tedford, Manlius, NY	2.00
Beverly T. Roth, Hope, AR	2.00	Ruth Collins, Folsom, CA	10.00	Betsy Branson, Flourtown, PA	5.00
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Contributions received from 1 June to 31 July 1999

Meredith Hall, Houston, TX	\$25.00	Park Place AVC, Houston, TX	\$25.00	Phyllis Gridley, Golden Valley, MN	\$4.00
<i>In fond remembrance of Sarah Wilson, mother of Paula Foster</i>		<i>Apply to the Beaumont office copier fund</i>		Glenn Hodges, Lenexa, KS	7.00
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<i>In fond memory of former AVSA President, Mr. L.T. Ozio, Jr.</i>		<i>With fond remembrance of former AVSA President, Mr. L.T. Ozio, Jr.</i>		<i>Apply to copy machine fund for Beaumont office</i>	
Manikhode Bounpheng, Paris, France	10.00	Lynn Lombard, Colfax, CA	10.00	Thomas Edds, Madison, WI	7.00
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Charles & Esther E. Wells and Jessie Edwards, Liberty, MO	25.00	Mid-America AVS, Kansas City, MO	20.00	<i>In fond memory of John Sears, husband of Audrey Sears</i>	
<i>In reminiscence of Sarah Wilson, mother of Paula Foster</i>		Nancy Reimer, Jacksonville, AL	10.00	AVS Springfield, Delaware County, PA	10.00
Antonia DiMatteo, Wheat Ridge, CO	10.00	Jane Rexilius, Houston, TX	25.00	<i>Apply toward Beaumont office copier machine fund</i>	
North Texas AV Judges Council	10.00	<i>To honor the memory of Sarah Wilson, Paula Foster's mother</i>		Crossstown AV Club, Madison, WI	50.00
<i>In memory of Sarah Wilson, mother of Paula Foster</i>		Elizabeth Whitesides, Raleigh, NC	10.00	<i>Apply to Beaumont computer up-grade program</i>	
Janet Thorsrud, San Jose, CA	2.00	Victoria AVS, Victoria, TX	25.00	Dr. & Mrs. Charles Ramser, Wichita Falls, TX	10.00
1st AVS Spartansburg, Spartansburg, SC	15.00	<i>Apply toward new copier fund for Beaumont office</i>		<i>In memory of Sarah Wilson, mother of Paula Foster</i>	
		Joshua McKinney, Goshen, KY	2.00	Ann Gramstorff, Spring Hills, FL	5.00
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		Amir Foroughi Abari, Isfahan, Iran	1.00	Heidi Bonneau, San Jose, CA	50.00
		Spring Branch AV Club, Houston, TX	25.00	TOTAL: \$635.81	
		<i>Apply toward copier for AVSA National office</i>			



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
2855 Gayle Lane
Auburn, CA 95602-9674
email: *jabar@foothill.net*

I Need a Screwdriver!

I haven't lost my marbles, but I do have a loose screw. Some of you are saying "What else is new". My doctor says my hip replacement needs to be tightened, thus the loose screw. My husband has had a field day with my "loose screw". Fortunately, in six weeks he will no longer be with me. It will be our 50th Wedding Anniversary, and he only came with a fifty-year warranty. SO LONG, JACK.

Another thing came up in the last month. I was asked to say something about packing plants and leaves for shipment. There are many ways that it is done. I find the easiest is to leave the plant in its pot, wrap the pot with Saran Wrap, securing wrap around the top of the soil just under the leaves. You can secure it with tape or rubber bands. With rubber bands you can just snip the band with scissors and the whole thing comes off easily. After the soil is secure, I then roll the plant up in paper, securing it with another rubber band. It helps if the plant is just a fraction dry. Not too dry, as it may be in shipment too long and arrive too dry to salvage. However, it's better to be dry than too wet. Without airflow it will rot.

Leaves are placed in a baggie and then wrapped in bubble plastic. Some of you put a small amount of wet cotton on the stem of the leaf, then wrap it in foil. I have had too many rot off this way, so I don't put anything on it. Then all the wrapped plants and leaves are placed in a box that has been lined with insulation. We built our own home here in Auburn and there is still some extra insulation in the basement. Between the layers of plants, sprinkle a layer of Styrofoam pellets. Lastly, place a layer of insulation on top and seal the box. It's insulated against heat and cold as well as cushioned.

Remember, if someone is good enough to share with you, please return the postage, asked for or not. When corresponding with me, always send a self addressed and stamped envelope for my reply.

Thanks to you all for sharing our African violet history with others.

Barbara

AVSA Most Wanted

Ace Of Cedar Rapids
Adele
Admiral Amazon
Albert The Second
Alaine
Alice's Cochise
Alice's White Xmas
Amazon Pink Delight
Amazon Pink Luster
Anafair
Andante
Antique Mahogany

Arpege
Audry
Autumn Glow
Azure Beauty
Bashful Beauty
Blue Heiress
Blue Rosette
Blue Warrior
Colorama
Dark Angel
Dresden Doll
Elsted's Oak Leaf Cluster

Emperor Wilhelm
Fairy Prince
Fleur DiMais
G.G. Angel Lace
G.G. White Lace
Granger's Festival
Green Go
Heather Mist
Heavenly Halo
Indian Girl
Lacy Girl
Little Purple Clouds

Marine
(the old one) by Harris
Mary Louise
Mimi's Stars
Murphy's Law
Rhapsodie Angelica
Rhapsodie Annie
The Redhead
Twist of Lime
White Ruffles

The Impeachment of Jack Know It All

by Ralph Breden • Redondo Beach, CA

A challenge for many African violet clubs is to find interesting programs for respective meetings. Repetitious programs on basic violet culture can become an excuse for not attending meetings - "I already know all that stuff."

Without too much advance notice of the contents of a program, the South Coast AVS planners announced, "The Impeachment of Jack Know It All* for Mistreatment of African Violets." For this hearing Jimmy Hang Em* served as independent persecutor. The members of the club served on the panel as unbiased adjudicators. The hearing was opened with formal swearing in.

Persecutor: Do you Jack, swear to tell the truth?

Jack: I'm a God fearing man and don't swear.

Persecutor: A recent visit to your violet room by the hired inspectors revealed apparent mistreatment of violets under your care.

Jack: What do you expect from termite inspectors?

Persecutor: They reported stressed out plants due to lack of watering, and recommend not letting your plants dry out completely - checking periodically to determine if soil is moist and, if wicked, test moisture in the wick.

Jack: That may be well and good if we don't have a dry spell with a water shortage. I will present a plant in this witch hunt that proves that mere closeness to moisture is sufficient for some plants.

Persecutor: The investigators stated that there was evidence of soil mealy bugs found on many plants. These bugs are a real menace to African violets. There are many prescribed treatments - certain chemical sprays, removal of and repotting new crown. The most effective way to control the pest is TCD - Trash Can Disposal.

Jack: I'm shocked that you suggest elimination of soil mealybug. My most recent environmental letter listed them as being on the endangered species list.

Persecutor: Jack, what have you done to cause all the spots on the leaves of your plants? Some may be caused by careless drops of water, plants touching each other and/or direct sun on the leaves. What is your response to the charge?

Jack: Again the inspectors are attempting to discourage

scientific progress. We have tiger lilies, monkey pods, horse chestnuts and cattails. I am attempting to develop a leaf with uniform spots - a leopard leaf on a violet plant would be a definite breakthrough.

Persecutor: Apparently you keep your plants in crowded conditions with little or no air circulation which has resulted in mildew on many plants.

Jack: This is the danger of having inspectors who are in no way African violet judges and not aware of the newest technology. What they saw was mild E.W. - electron waves - used to create a new introduction called Dusty Miller.

Persecutor: Jack, are you aware that African violets respond positively when repotted frequently in appropriate sized pots? The rule of thumb for a standard African violet is pot diameter one third the diameter of the plant leaf span. Miniature and semi miniatures are generally potted in two-inch pots. The investigators found in their inspection practically all your plants revealed distress due to being potted in "one size fits all" pots.

Jack: Have you not heard of the economy in buying in bulk? Pots are not cheap and I save dollars by using only one size.

I earlier mentioned in my testimony that I would present a plant to prove my theory on watering. I now show you the plant also to demonstrate my philosophy of pot size. This African violet, a gift from the local art plant shop, has been in my bathroom for twenty five years, was watered by drenching only once and has never been repotted. It has bloomed constantly.

Persecutor: Jack, your testimony has not been very convincing - do you have anything further to say in your defense?

Jack: Well, after hearing discussion surrounding the charges, maybe the question as to why I've never won a rosette for my collection entry is solved.

Persecutor: Mr. Fairman, has the panel of adjudicators reached a verdict?

Mr. Fairman: Your honor we have. We find the defendant guilty of not abiding by guidance found in the AVSA Handbook.

*Names have been changed to protect the innocent

Note 1: The verdict is being appealed to a higher authority - readers of the A.V.M.

AVSA MOST WANTED PLANTS FOUND GROWING IN SOUTH AFRICA

Many thanks to Corrie van Heerden for responding with these plants that have been on the AVSA Most Wanted List. Some have been on the "Wanted" list a long time. It's growers like this that make my efforts so much easier.

Antique Elegance
Cinnamon Twist
Coconut Frost
Edge of Midnight
Edna Fischer

Elisa Rocha
Feather
Fire and Ice
Flight of Butterflies
Frosted Ruby

Fugii Gold
Golden Rubies
Louisiana Sugar Cane
Old Dominion Sparkler
Pink Camisole

Pink Pizzazz
Pink Philly
Spatter and Whisper

Thanks again Corrie,
we really appreciate
your generosity.
Barbara Elkin

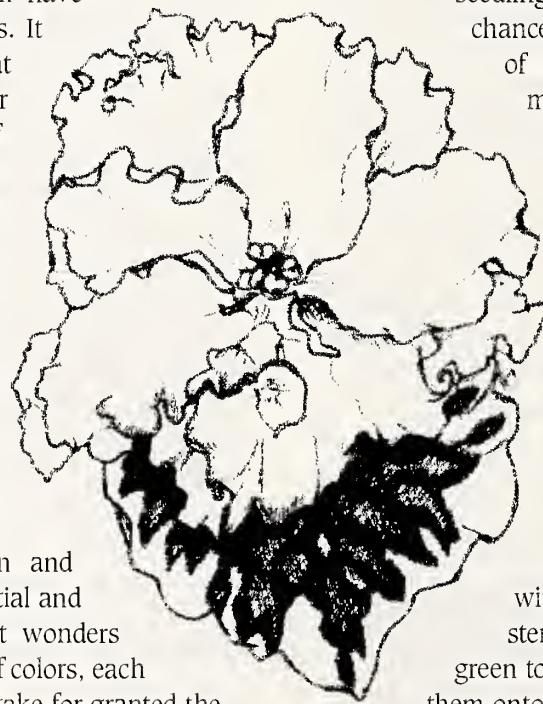
Creating African Violet Hybrids

by John Brownlie
Mississauga, ON
Canada

African violets in the species form have been on the earth for millions of years. It has been only in the last 60 years that hybridizers with vision to see their potential have helped in the creation of new, improved and different varieties. Just over a half century from species to what we have today! It's incredible! Along the way we have witnessed great changes from single-flowered plants that usually dropped their blooms, having a narrow color range, to what we have today. All these improvements would have never come to be had it not been for dedicated hybridizers.

Mutations appeared in cultivation and people were quick to realize their potential and cross on them and with them. What wonders there are when we see the wide range of colors, each new generation better than before. We take for granted the abundance of bloom on our hybrids, but only a short few years ago plants were sparse. The huge doubles, variegated leaves, multicolors, trailers, miniatures, fantasy types; the list goes on! That range of success is what motivated these men and women to where we are today. And this is just the beginning, folks! Each new year that passes brings more people into the adventure of hybridizing.

Where should I hybridize? The ideal place would be in a greenhouse, able to accommodate thousands of seedlings for selection. The late Bill Johnson once wrote that one can be very successful in a small space growing from 50 to 100



seedlings from a cross, having a mathematical chance of success from a representative number of seedlings. Many hobby growers have made their contributions to the beauty we now enjoy. Think of the names 'Ms Pretty', 'Something Special', 'Happy Cricket', 'Amazing Grace' and 'Kiwi Dazzle' to mention a few that were produced in limited space. "Where" isn't as important as, "Do I want to do it all?" and if "Yes", "How do I begin?"

To make a cross onto an African violet, you remove the pollen from the anthers of the bloom and apply it to the stigma of a bloom on the "mother" plant. A pod will usually develop from within 6 to 9 months of fertilization. The stem will dry back and the pod will go from green to light brown. Harvest the seed by spilling them onto a creased piece of white paper.

There are many methods of germination. I plant my seed on a bed of violet soil which has 3/4" vermiculite below it. The container is covered with Saran Wrap and held onto the pot with a rubber band. It takes about 3 weeks before you see signs of growth. I wait until each plant is about the size of a clover and then plant them into restaurant creamers with holes punctured in the bottoms for drainage. When they are large enough I transplant them into 1 1/2" pots and grow them on to the flowering stage. I then select those which meet my criterion as to whether it is an improvement or not.

Strive for Improvement over existing varieties!

I can't stress that enough! Anyone can assist a violet to produce a seed pod and in turn plant it and produce new hybrids. However, much precious time is wasted when a person produces varieties that are no better than those that currently exist or are often inferior. The growing public will eventually eliminate them from their collections and they will become extinct. Having said that, being human, we are all guilty of the introduction of poor specimens that we thought were good at the time. But as we gain more experience, our quality has improved.

To be a good hybridizer I believe it should start with *you*. Are you an honest straight-forward, careful, inquisitive and persistent person? I believe that a hybridizer has no other magic than that of patient inquiry, great enthusiasm, an unprejudiced mind and an acute judgement of the merits and capabilities of African violets.

A knowledge of genetics can be useful in hybridizing, but it is not the singularly most important skill. Being able to select a worthy mother plant and use the pollen from another is more important. In an earlier talk I once gave on African violets years ago I said, "I cross the best with the best, and hope for the best!" If you want to help create a champion, you have to start with champions!

Selection: If it's good, why is it good?

- Is it an improvement in some way over existing varieties? (Provided you know they exist.) Even if it is a subtle improvement, this is important. I recall one time I enjoyed the bloom of Dick Wasmund's plant, 'Brite Beacon' (a large white star with a wide blue edge). I didn't care too much for the leaf, however, which was a slight strawberry foliage and irregularly shaped. So I crossed 'Optimara Alabama' onto it and developed 'Zachary' with an improved leaf and similar bloom. I liked it, but there was a new problem; it has the tendency to revert back to a solid blue color or contain bleeding of blue into the white at times.

Improvement? Back to the drawing board!

- Do I seek better symmetry?
- Do I seek stronger blossom stems?
- Are the blossoms well-formed or do they have tufts that cover up the anthers?
- Do the leaves have a tendency to "halo" with a light yellowing?
- Do the blooms drop? Many stars are quite beautiful but drop.
- Am I seeking to improve the color of the blossom? A whiter white, a redder red, etc. Does the hue catch my eye?
- Do I want to improve the leaf? (Its shape? Its size? Its strength to bleaching? Its color? etc.)
- Does it sucker easily?

- Do the leaves need pegging to remain symmetrical?
- Does the plant look like a big head of lettuce or cabbage?
- Does the plant establish a good root system or does it grow loose in its pot?
- Do the leaves go from light to having patches of dark on them?
- Do variegates keep their chlorophyll content? (Too much? Too little?)

Once you start looking for the answers to these questions and more you may develop, you are on the way to becoming an accomplished hybridizer.

Don't be concerned about creating new varieties. Aim for improvement in the existing ones and once in a while you will be delighted with something "new" that you hadn't anticipated.

Just a little on genetics:

You should have a "working knowledge" of the dominant and recessive characteristics of African violets. This will save you considerable time and give you some predication in what to expect from your cross. An example: Years ago when I first started to hybridize I crossed 'Happy Harold', a variegated, onto 'Rhapsodie Monique'. They are both red blooming plants. I was hoping to get a better red bloom onto a variegated hybrid. Little did I know that you must cross onto a variegated plant to produce variegated seedlings.

Some dominant characteristics:

- Purple or dark blue
- Double blossoms
- All edged blossoms
- Dogwood tips
- Girl foliage (green with a white base)
- Fantasy blossoms.
- White blooms. (Surprising to many)

Some recessive characteristics:

- Coral and many hues of red
- Pink
- Single blossoms
- Fringed edged blooms
- Star-shaped blossoms

Editor's note - 'Creating African Violet Hybrids' was the subject of an outstanding workshop presented by John Brownlie at the 29th Annual Convention and show of the AVS of Canada in 1996.

*Reprinted from 'Chatter',
publication of the AVS of Canada*

Grooming Gesneriads



by Monte Watler • Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada

Grooming of plants is a very time consuming but necessary task. While some of our growers are to be admired for their clinically clean plant rooms where ne'er a drop of dust or a spent leaf tarry, I cannot boast of such an environment. However, it is necessary to keep your growing areas fairly tidy and free of spent leaves and blossoms.

This can be done on a regular basis and the best time is probably when you are watering. As you check each plant for watering needs you can also scan it for dried leaves and spent blossoms. Have a pair of scissors handy and snip away as you wander from one plant to another. It is also advisable to set aside a certain time for a general inspection. Remove everything, including pots and trays, from the shelves. The shelves and trays should be washed with a mild detergent to which a small amount of bleach has been added. Prior to replacing the pots, inspect each one carefully for unwanted tenants as well as assessing whether it needs pinching back, repotting or topping up with new soil. Before replacing the trays the entire area can be sprayed with a Lysol spray. This not only gives the plant room a pleasant smell but will inhibit mildew. It is also an ideal time to remove excess growth for propagation.

Dust free foliage is necessary for the plants to breathe. A soft hair brush is necessary and should be drawn gently across the leaves from stem to tip, removing the dust which may have settled there. Stubborn bits of lint or water marks maybe be removed by using a damp tissue and lightly tapping the soiled spot. Cotton swabs are also useful for this purpose.

General grooming means keeping your plants free of all spent flowers, dead leaves and dust and keeping the plant in an overall fair condition. Grooming for show is a little more intricate and many details have to be considered.

SYMMETRY OR FORM:

Depending on the growth habit of the plant, one has to keep it as symmetrical as possible in order to make a good showing. For plants such as *Saintpaulia*, *Petrocosmea*, *Episcia*, and *Sinningia*, this is absolutely essential. Even though plants such as *Columnea*, *Aeschynanthus*, and *Codonanthe* are inclined to twist and turn, they can be kept in a balanced order by continually pinching and layering the stems. A well balanced plant is definitely more attractive than one which had been allowed to grow in every direction.

QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF BLOOM:

If a plant is being entered in a class that requires bloom, then it should have a fair amount, and this is sometimes related to the size of the plant, the amount of foliage and the type of plant being judged. Plants such as *Saintpaulia*, *Streptocarpus*, and *Sinningia* are very floriferous, therefore should possess a great deal of bloom while the shy bloomers such as some of the chritas may be quite acceptable with a lesser amount. Judges will also take into consideration the difficulty in blooming certain species. By careful manipulation, a plant with a few scattered blossoms can be made to look quite attractive if the blooms are brought together at center of the crown.

This works very well with *Saintpaulia*, *Petrocosmea* and *Sinningia*.

CULTURAL PERFECTION:

This covers a multitude of chores. The fresh and healthy appearance of growth. Removal of ugly stubs, stalks and discolored, misshapen, or superfluous leaves. Strange as it may seem, even the removal of a healthy leaf may improve a plant's appearance. Long necks and bare stems can be camouflaged by either repotting or covering the top of the soil with sphagnum moss in order to cover the bare spots. All markers and props must be removed from the plants. A sticker or a plant label left on the pot will result in a deduction of marks.

Over or under potting is also a consideration and easy to correct. Plants must be absolutely insect and disease free. If in any doubt please leave the plant at home. Careful handling of your plants is necessary as a quick turn of your hand may snap a leaf - which in turn may destroy your plant's potential of winning a blue ribbon. Some growers recommend that you groom while the plant is on the dry side as at this stage the leaves are not brittle and can be manipulated much more easily.

It is also advisable to pack and transport your plants in this condition as well but at the same time assuring that the plants are not damaged by being too dry for a long period of time.

Reprinted from "Chatter", publication of the AVS of Canada



in Winter

by Ina Beaver • Canada

Mother Nature dictates that almost all living things go through a semi dormant, if not fully dormant, period from late autumn until spring. Are you not more apt to curl up with a good book during the winter, and don't you sleep more? I do. Your African violets have stopped blooming under natural conditions and no doubt have slowed down in their growth cycle because they just are not getting enough light in the window; days are short and the sunshine is weak. Do not worry, because along about the middle of February they will start to grow and they should be in bloom sometime in April or May.

It is very important at this time to give your plants as much light as possible, even moving them under table lamps in the evening. Give them very little fertilizer at this time as they are not utilizing it. You may end up with crystals in the crown (center of the plant) a brownish stain in the middle of the leaves or perhaps on the edges of the leaves. If this should happen pour two or three slightly warm cups of water through your pot to rid the soil of the excess fertilizer and don't allow any of this water to remain in the saucer. You should always remove extra water from your saucer after half hour or so.

While on this subject, I might note that many gesneriads go through a dormant period and many of the sinningias go into complete dormancy, particularly in the autumn. At this time I remove the tops, most of the old roots on the tubers, repot in fresh almost dry soil, cover them and place in a cool dark place and check on them now and then. When they want to - and only then, and when new little "bunny ears" appear on the top should they be brought into the light and watered. I had a tuber of *S. 'Canencens'* remain dormant for over year. As long as the tuber remains firm to the touch it should survive. Many of the rhizome type plants such as *Achimenes* need to remain dormant several months. Fibrous rooted plants such as *Columnea* cease growing during the winter. Much to my horror, the first two years I had a *Drymonia* and *Cobananthus* they dropped almost all their leaves in October, but come spring, new leaves grew back.

The only plants I have that prefer to bloom in late autumn are my eucodonias. My smithianthas bloom in December and January. Yes, I do grow under lights. I use

either two cool white 40 inch tubes or one cool and one warm white. The grow lights are lovely to use but the others are eight times cheaper. Summers I have them on twelve hours a day, then during the fall months they are decreased to ten hours per day. I gradually increase the number of hours to fifteen per day prior to our show at the end of April. Never exceed fifteen hours and ensure that your plants have eight or more hours of darkness.

Most of us have dry conditions in our homes during the winter months, and our plants love to be misted every day. Fill your mister with hot water, hold it a foot or so above the leaves, and spray (with a fine spray) until beads form on the leaves. Take care not to get your leaves too wet, especially the crowns. If you should accidentally get water in the crown, take a paper towel or tissue and soak up the excess. If water is allowed to remain in the crown it will rot. If you are growing in natural light, ensure that leaves are dry before returning them to the window.

When spring comes, watch for powdery mildew. It thrives when dampness in homes is prevalent, as happened in Atlantic Canada (where I live) last year. Powdery mildew seems to be the most trouble we violet growers have to put up with. It looks as if baby powder has been sprinkled on plants and can kill the plant in short order if allowed to remain unchecked. The best preventative is not overcrowding, placing a small fan near but not blowing directly on the plants, and good air circulation throughout the house. If mildew should appear, a light spraying with Lysol a foot or so above the affected plant may do the trick. For more serious attacks, try one of the following - use Ivory dish washing liquid - 1 tsp. per quart of water, spray thoroughly and rinse off after a few minutes.

Benomyl or Fermate may also be used as a soil drench - 1/4 tsp. per quart of warm water. This is a systemic remedy and would be slower acting. One grower I know paints the soap solution on the offending leaves. I would suggest removing the blossom stems also as they seem to be attacked the quickest.

Reprinted from "Chatter",
publication of the AVS of Canada

Leaf Propagation

by Ron Smith
Australia

Grow new African violets by propagating a leaf.

You need very few things for this task.

- The Leaf
- Sufficient Potting Mix
- Acrylic Yarn, suitably damp
- Small Pot
- Very Sharp Knife
- Plant Label & Pencil

Leaves and baby plants prefer a slightly different potting mix to their big brothers and sisters. They like a potting mix with extra vermiculite, say 30% vermiculite, 70% very light potting mix. Don't be too concerned, leaves will grow without altering the mix. However, they grow better and they are easier to divide and handle when you eventually take on the task of potting up the baby plants.

First, choose your leaf.

This should be a youngish leaf, I would say about middle age, which you will find around about the middle layer of leaves (third or fourth from the center) on the plant. In the case of a variegated plant be sure to choose a leaf with plenty of green on it.

If you select an old leaf you will be much older yourself before you get any baby plants. It is usually possible to tell what kind of leaf you have purchased or been given. If the underside of the petiole (leaf stem) has a pot rim mark it is an old grandfather leaf, for sure, unless it came from a very young plant.

Now is the easy part - take the leaf, and make a cut through the petiole (leaf stem) leaving about 3 or 4 centimeters or 3/4" of an inch. Put the leaf aside so that the cut end will dry. Prepare the pot keeping the potting mix as loose as possible, then write the name of the plant and the date on a label and on the pot.

Take the leaf and make a small indentation with the blunt end of the pencil in the surface of the potting mix. Insert the leaf just 1/2" or just over 1 centimeter into the hole just made and label the leaf. The lower you plant the leaf the longer it will take for the baby plants to reach the surface.

Some growers water the pot from the top, but I do not. My belief is that it gives the cut

surface time to heal so there is less chance of the leaf rotting. I then place the pot on a water reservoir. Some growers put a small amount of fertilizer in the water, and some do not. It all depends on your own choice. Too much fertilizer and it will burn the young roots. Place the pot in a warm position where there is plenty of air movement, not drafts. Now wait.

The speed of growth of plants from the leaf is controlled by several factors; temperature, humidity and age of leaf. If the leaf has been in the potting mix for some time and the leaf itself has not grown then it had passed its best "use by" date and it will possibly take a long time to produce baby plants. If the leaf itself gets bigger after potting then you have a nice middle-aged leaf which was at the time of removal in the prime of life and still growing. Baby plants should appear through the potting mix in about 4 to 5 weeks after planting.

At this juncture there is again a choice. Some growers cut off part of the mother leaf and some remove the leaf. The explanation being it could give the small plants more light, and saves the plantlets from becoming deformed. My mother leaf is left on as long as possible to provide for the growing infants.

Do not remove variegated leaves. Always remember that small plants with white leaves will not survive on their own until they have managed to get green sections. (Remember photosynthesis on their leaves.)

When the plantlets are about 1 1/2" tall (3 to 4 centimeters), it is time to pot them up individually into their own pots. This depends in some way on the season. If it is winter and cold, and if you do not have a light stand with ideal conditions it may be worth delaying this operation until it is warmer.

By planting them up when they are small, the little plants are compact. If they are left until they are taller in the mother pot they tend to get "leggy". One other point, don't attempt to pot up variegated plantlets until they have a substantial amount of green on their leaves or they will surely die.

*Reprinted from the
AVS of South Australia, Inc. Newsletter*

1999 BEST VARIETIES

Floyd Lawson

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Welcome to AVSA's third "World's 25 Best African Violets" List. This list is from growers around the world sending in their lists of the 25 violets which were their favorites. Lists came from four continents and eight nations, totaling more than 9,000 votes. This is a truly worldwide effort. Thank you to all who participated. Thank you to each who has encouraged me along the way. I cannot personally answer each note, but they are deeply appreciated.

Again this year we have added the descriptions from AVSA's First Class computer data base. At the request of many, a list of the "runners up" without descriptions is appended.

1. **Irish Flirt** (7577) 11/07/91 (S. Sorano) Double bright green and white frilled star. Medium green, wavy. **Semiminiature**
2. **Ness' Crinkle Blue** (8136) 01/19/95 (D. Ness) Double dark blue star/thin white edge. Dark green, quilted, serrated/red back. **Semiminiature**
3. **Picasso** (6924) 10/04/88 (M. Tremblay) Double light blue/white fantasy. **Variegated** medium green, plain/silver-green back. **Large**
4. **Ode to Beauty** (7677) 02/28/92 (G. Cox/B. Johnson) Semidouble medium coral star/thin raspberry band, white edge. Dark green, plain, quilted. **Large**
5. **Melodie Kimi** (8100) 09/15/94 (Sunnyside/Levy) Single white sticktite pansy/purple-blue top petals, tips. Medium green, plain, quilted, wavy. **Standard**
6. **Tomahawk** (7269) 01/22/90 (K. Stork) Semidouble-double bright red. Dark green, plain. **Large**
7. **Precious Pink** (6025) 07/05/85 (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink. **Variegated**, plain. **Semiminiature**
8. **Pixie Blue** (2598) 09/16/74 (L. Lyon) Single purple-blue/ darker center. Plain, ovate. **Miniature trailer**
9. **Mickey Mouse** (H. Inpijn) Double dark blue. Dark green, pointed/red back. **Miniature**
10. **Favorite Child** (7676) 02/28/92 (G. Cox/B. Johnson) Semidouble white ruffled pansy/medium blue eye, rays, edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**
11. **Harbor Blue** (6174) 02/24/86 (T. Weber) Single light blue/darker eye. Dark green, plain/red back. **Large**
12. **Granger's Wonderland** (3419) 05/01/78 (Eyerdom) Semidouble light blue frilled. Plain, ruffled. **Large**
13. **Rob's Sticky Wicket** (6467) 01/27/87 (R. Robinson) Semidouble light fuchsia. Medium green, pointed. **Semiminiature trailer**

14. **Rainbow's Quiet Riot** (R. Wasmund) Semidouble blue-purple large star/white fantasy. Dark green, round, scalloped. **Standard**
15. **Ness' Satin Rose** (8144) 01/19/95 (D. Ness) Double rose-mauve two-tone star. Dark green, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Semiminiature**
16. **Happy Cricket** (5726) 04/29/84 (Hollada) Double lavender two-tone frilled. Dark green, ruffled/red back. **Large**
17. **Snuggles** (5018) 08/27/82 (L. Lyon) Semidouble pink. **Variegated**. **Semiminiature**
18. **Falling Snow** (Tracey) Semidouble white. Light green. **Semiminiature trailer**
19. **Ness' Viking Maiden** (7182) 09/05/89 (D. Ness) Semidouble white ruffled pansy. Medium green wavy, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**
20. **Milky Way Trail** (7169) 08/01/89 (J. Stahl) Single-semidouble white pansy. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. **Semiminiature trailer**
21. **Little Pro** (6637) 06/11/87 (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink. Dark green, quilted, pointed/red back. **Semiminiature**
22. **Powwow** (7708) 06/15/92 (K. Stork) Semidouble red pansy. **Variegated** green and cream, plain. **Standard**
23. **Nortex's Snowkist Haven** (6046) 09/12/85 (B. Johnson) Single white frilled star. Medium green, pointed, quilted, hairy. **Standard**
24. **Windy Day** (7719) 06/15/92 (Stork/Boone) Semidouble medium blue star/white-green ruffled edge. Dark green, pointed, ruffled/red back. **Large**
25. **Tiger** (3433) 06/01/78 (I. Fredette) Semidouble dark blue-violet. **Variegated**. **Large**
25. **Blushing Ivory** (7942) 10/08/93 (S. Sorano) Single ivory star/wide rose-orchid sparkle edge. Dark green, pointed, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**

RUNNERS UP: (Next 15 cultivars): Fisherman's Paradise, Marching Band, Rob's Mad Cat, Frosted Whisper, International, Sassy Sister, Tiny Wood Trail, Honeysuckle Rose, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Vintage Wine, Everdina, Optimara Rose Quartz, Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, Lela Marie, The King.

Terraced Terrariums

by Barbara Goodsell • Glenview, IL

If you want to try something new, enter a terraced terrarium in your club's next show. The basic principles of designing a terraced terrarium are the same as the construction of a flat designed terrarium, with a few exceptions.

You will need a high-domed plastic terrarium, or a large glass terrarium. The glass bowls may be purchased at a florist supply or a florist shop. They can be quite costly, but make a lovely presentation.

I use two glass terrariums. One measures 16"H x 11"W, with a top opening of about 6".

The second measures 11 1/2"H x 9"W with an opening of 8 1/2".

After you fill your terrarium with construction materials, except the plants, it is time to place the terrace dividers. I have found that the fiber plant poles such as to what Ivy or Philodendron are pinned, work well. The poles are much longer than the inside of your terrarium, and must be cut to size with a saw.

As you place your terracing (poles), soil may slide into the front of the bowl. Add more soil, especially to the top layer, where it should be at the highest level.

You should be able to make three levels, with the bottom pole holding back all the soil.

Your terrarium will end up with a well at the front. To this, add several layers of either gravel or lica stones. When you water your plant material the water will run down through the terracing into the well. The gravel or lica stones act as a reservoir, creating humidity for your plants.

After the show is over you may leave your plant material in the terrarium for a while or remove it altogether, especially your African violet. Your terracing will remain in place, ready and waiting for the next show.

You'll be surprised how easy it is to construct a terraced terrarium. I think they give designers more of an opportunity to be creative.

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7. Item 17 must be signed.

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PS Form 3526, September 1998 (Reverse)

Guidelines For Judging

by Bob L. Green • Rockledge, FL

1. Do not use age as the determinate of experience. Experience is acquired by studying, keeping current, and growing a wide range of African violets. Judges who do not maintain their currency by studying and growing the newer varieties of African violets should not accept judging invitations.
2. Giving away ribbons is worse than withholding ribbons; the practice does not encourage better growing nor does it uphold the principles of AVSA. It also discourages growers and exhibitors who work hard on their plants to see poorly grown specimens given the same recognition as their plants.
3. It is probably true that judges who judge by-the-book are not asked to judge as frequently as the more lenient, club pleaser judges – but, in the long run, they are more respected.
4. Don't give an entry a ribbon just because it is in the show. Remember, some entries are permitted either because the Entries Committee lacked the courage to disqualify, or the entries were added at the last minute to fill space.
5. Answer invitations to judge promptly. Accept only when qualified.
6. Study the schedule carefully before arriving to judge.
7. Arrive at show at least 15 minutes before the appointed time.
8. Before judging, take time for a quick walk-through of the entire show; however, do not finalize opinion until you take a close look at entries when judging.
9. Be tolerant when assessing the work of novices or entries in the first show of a new club, however, don't be over-tolerant to the point of awarding ribbons to clearly inferior plants.
10. Be cognizant of a poor growing season and unusual weather conditions. Also, be cognizant of the environmental changes from home to show room, and their effect on plants.
11. Special awards should not be awarded just because they are available. They should be given only for marked superiority.



12. Look for overall appearance, beauty, and condition (ABCs); don't strain at technicalities.
13. Stay at least three feet back from arrangements. Don't touch, pry at, or poke at arrangements. Look for harmony and balance, and schedule interpretation. Remember, the arrangement should carry your eyes smoothly from point A to point B, and the African violets or blossoms should be an integral part of the flow. Points should only be deducted for mechanics when they clearly detract from the total arrangement.
14. Respect entries; don't make flippant or caustic remarks.
15. Don't let personal prejudices affect your judging; always maintain objectivity.
16. Be tolerant of new judges, respect their views, let them participate in decisions, make them feel like part of the team. Do not relegate new judges to low man on the totem pole.
17. Take time to sign blue ribbons and blue ribbon entry cards in a Standard Show.
18. Write discreet and tactful comments on entry cards when time permits, and sign your name. Do not delegate this to a clerk.
19. Do not write criticisms on blue ribbon entry cards. If the entry deserves criticism, then it doesn't deserve a blue.
20. When you write the criticism, start with a compliment. Help the exhibitor by positive rather than negative suggestions. A good exhibitor wants to know where points were lost.
21. Always remember, as judges our main responsibility is to educate and perpetuate better culture.
22. After judging, personally thank clerks for their help.
23. Write a thank-you note to Chairman of Judges for having you judge, within ten days of assignment.

After the Show

by Marilee Beam • Harbor City, CA

The show is over...it was exciting, it was beautiful, but now, what to do with my plants? They are so big, so floriferous.

The first thing I try to do, though not always possible, is remove all the blooms before I put them in the car. I do not want any hitchhiking pests on them...I have enough of my own at home. But sometimes the crew clears the show tables so fast that I can barely get the blossoms pulled. When this happens, I completely disbud them at home before taking them into their holding place. In my case, this is a dining room table far removed from all my plants that stayed at home. I place them on the table and give them a drink of plain water. The only light they will have for a couple of weeks is the chandelier which is not unlike the lights in the showroom.

Our club schedules its show one week before the regular meeting. That way we can bring in leaves of the winners and play Leaf Bingo with them. These are the leaves that everyone has put down on their "want list" so it works out very well. They all know what they want and what they are getting.

Now to my favorite part of having violets: I honestly prefer GROWING to showing, I must admit. I tear down to just a nice crown and repot them in new clean pots with fresh soil, and I can get back to the basic care. I can foliar feed again...I like doing that. I feed them 20-20-20, Rapid-Gro 23-19-17, Optimara 14-12-14, or Volkmann 15-30-15. I vary the fertilizers with each watering. And then I foliar feed with Fish Emulsion every ten days. I feel they are "BORN AGAIN" violets.

After a few weeks of close observation, I return them to the violet stands. After a few more weeks, I sit back and look up the date of the next violet show I plan to enter. Then I begin selecting ten plants to get ready for that show. It is never-ending, but it is so enjoyable. I like growing violets, I really do!

Reprinted from the *California Council News*, joint publication of the AV Council of Southern CA and the Northern CA Council of AV Societies

Culture Shock: Does It Really Show?

by Lisa DiMambro

When it comes to growing show plants, the new grower is always told that consistent care is what is most important when it comes to growing prize winners. We all know that if we don't give our plants good, consistent care that culture shock will show. Well, I wanted to see just how much it would show!

My plants are grown in a downstairs plant room, with temperatures between 68° and 72°, and humidity never lower than 55%. I run a fan twenty-four hours per day and lights are on for ten hours. All plants are wicked and given a constant feed diluted fertilizer.

I took a group of six plants, three minis and three standards. The minis were 'Rob's Crazy Daze', 'Irish Flirt' and 'Sugar Bear Blues'. The standards were 'Majesty', 'Flicker' and 'Rainbow's Quiet Riot'.

All of the plants had their wicks removed and were placed in the different parts of our downstairs area. I hung a light over them and left it on for eight hours per day. The temperature fell between 60° and 70°, with very little humidity. I did water them when I remembered, alternating between fertilized water and plain.

'Sugar Bear Blues' just could not handle this treatment

and died after the first month. The other plants were left this way for another three months. They did grow, but very slowly, and I had a few small blossoms.

The only exception was 'Majesty'. Now here is a plant that seems to thrive on neglect! When I put it out, I had just planted it into a four inch pot. Now it was almost twelve inches across and loaded with blossoms that had a very good amount of yellow in them.

After all this, I brought the plants back into my plant room and rewicked them and placed them back on their shelf. After about another three months, I started to notice the signs that the plants had suffered stress in the past. The older foliage was smaller than the new foliage, blossoms were now bigger and had better color than under the previous stressful conditions. It took about four to six months to grow all the foliage out and have nice looking plants again.

So the next time you say to yourself, "They can wait another day," remember, they need consistent care if you want to have nice looking, prize winning plants at show time.

Reprinted from *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS

LAST CHANCE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

This is your last chance in the 20th century to donate an award for a convention. HURRY! Awards received by me by February 15, 2000 will be recorded in the 2000 Omaha Convention Souvenir Book. All awards received after February 15, 2000 will be held for the 2001 Convention in Chicago.

Won't you or your club please consider donating an award? The millennium convention should be a great one! (I'm bragging, because my council is sponsoring this

convention and we are a gung-ho group!) Please make your checks payable to AVSA CONVENTION FUND and mail them to:

Mrs. Linda L. Golubski

AVSA Award Chairman

1416 N. W. A Street

Blue Springs, MO 64015

Home: 816-229-2051 after 6:00 P.M. CST

e-mail: golubski@kc.net



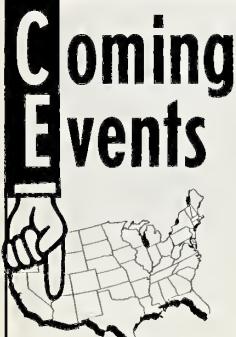
CONVENTION DATES HAVE CHANGED



Here's a wild idea ... change the convention dates with less than a year to go! May 21-28, 2000 is the newly scheduled week for the Omaha AVSA Convention.

How can this happen? The primary reason is that the NCAA moved the College World Series right into our convention dates. This premier event has a long history in Omaha and our hotel had contracted most of its rooms to the series. Several other bookkeeping errors occurred that prevented anyone from finding out until August of this year. The good news is that AVSA received several concessions when the contract was renegotiated.

So put May 21-28 on your calendar! It is still going to be WILD. There is still time to grow wonderful show plants to enter in the show! And you can bet that the Omaha team is going to work extra hard to make sure you have a wonderful wild time at convention!



November 4 - 6 - TEXAS
Lone Star AV Council
Annual Convention
Ramada Inn Bayfront
Conference Center
601 North Water Street
Corpus Christi, TX

November 4 - 7 - CALIFORNIA
Northern California
Council of AV Societies
DoubleTree Hotel
1055 Van Ness Ave.
Fresno, CA
Info: Renee Wilson (559) 897-1662

November 5 & 6 - FLORIDA
Suncoast AVC Plant Sale
St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church
3747 34th St., S
St. Petersburg, FL
Nov 5 - 9am - 4pm
Nov 6 - 9am - 3pm
Info: Retta Anderson
(727) 866 - 8830

November 6 & 7 - NEW JERSEY
Tristate AV Council Show/Sale
Frelinghuysen Arboretum
Haggerty Center
51 E. Hanover Ave., Morristown, NJ
Nov 6 - 1:30pm - 5pm
Nov 7 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Stephen Burrell (914) 896-8605

November 6 & 7 - MISSOURI
Mid America AVS Show/Sale
Loose Park Garden Center
5100 Pennsylvania
Kansas City, MO
Nov 6 - 10am - 4pm
Nov 7 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Tricia Taylor (816) 353-6571
Gayle Gill (816) 444-5193

November 9 - NEW MEXICO
Albuquerque AVC Presentation
Albuquerque Garden Center
10120 Lomas Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM
Hours: 1pm - 3pm
Info: Nancy Stewart (505) 890-8420

November 11 - 13 - VIRGINIA
Mid Atlantic AVS
Convention>Show/Sale
Holiday Inn Central
Richmond, VA
Info: Cathy Akers (540) 786-9587



My African Violet Safari

by Bruno "B-Man" Curcuruto

North York, Ontario, Canada

Back in May 1998, I decided to attend the New York State African Violet Society Convention, this year being held in Syracuse, New York. I picked up a Show Schedule and began planning which violets I would enter. I chose about 40 plants to grow for the show. Most were young plants in 4" pots, but I had five months to pamper them into show condition.

The Convention registration form came in the June issue of the Empire Violet Magazine. I mailed in a US money order and the registration form, but held off on the hotel reservation as I was looking for a traveling buddy and someone to room with. About six weeks before the show I received an e-mail from Paul Kroll. He had heard through Doris Brownlie that I was planning to go to Syracuse and offered to share a room with me. Fred Packer later joined us. All that remained was to reserve a Mini-van.

As the show date approached I began to wonder if I would encounter problems transporting a van load of violets across the border. The only other time I had visited the U.S., I was a passenger going shopping in Buffalo and was harassed about a \$20.00 pair of shoes. My fears were alleviated with advice from Doris Brownlie and Paul Kroll. They suggesting simply describing the violets as houseplants, grown in my home, in a soilless mix and to mention that they would be coming back with me. Easy enough! Doris also mentioned that Carolyn Conlin-Lane enters from the Thousand Island Bridge and has never been hassled about her plants. The day before departure, I picked up the van and began the process of packing 42 plants. It took me all day to do the final pruning and cleaning.

The following morning I loaded the van almost to the roof, and headed east on Highway 401. For the duration of that three hour trip to the border, there was nothing else but the U.S. Customs check point on my mind. I had visions of violets scattered all over the parking lot. Turning off at the Thousand Island crossing, my pulse rate quickened. I approached a control point just before the Thousand Island Bridge and stopped. The lady in the booth asked for a two dollar toll. Driving on I thought to myself, "That was easy!" Then it hit me while passing a speed limit sign in kilometers that I was still on Canadian soil! Now my blood pressure is soaring!!

I arrived at the U.S. Customs and waited in line, watching

the cars ahead of me, none of which were making detours. I drove up to the booth and answered the standard questions - "What's your citizenship?", "Where do you live?", "Where are you going?" and finally the big one - "What's in those boxes?"

I told her African violets. She asked for I.D. and I gave her my driver's license. She looked at the license then back at me. I had my usual 2 week's worth of scruffy beard and could almost hear her thinking, "This guy is some kind of terrorist smuggling something into the country." She kept my license and instructed me to park in Inspection Bay #3. It had a hoist on the floor. I was wondering if I had to drive up it or wait. There was nobody around so I decided to park in front of it. The van was a rental, and I didn't want to damage it by slipping off the hoist, and more importantly I didn't want to jolt my violets in the back. I locked the van, walked inside, took a seat and waited. All the Customs officers were carrying guns at their sides. This was an intimidating place!

Behind the counter, directly in front of me, three officials were talking. I couldn't hear what they were saying, but was sure they were talking about me. One kept looking in my direction. I bet they're discussing the latest "Most Wanted" list. I was aware I was looking rough around the edges.

Finally one approached the counter and asked, "Can I help you?" I told him I was asked to pull over and come inside. He informed me that I should be sitting on the other side. I followed his instructions and moved.

Thirty minutes later my name was called and I approached the counter. The officer asked, "You have African violets?"

"Yes," I replied. "I'm attending an African violet convention in Syracuse".

Then he wanted to see a phytosanitary certificate, which I did not have. I explained that the violets are grown in soilless mix - containing only peat moss, perlite and vermiculite, no soil, and that they were grown in my home. He didn't look convinced. I continued to say that all the plants were coming back with me.

"What kind of awards are you given?" he asked.

"Ribbons and small cash prizes," I replied. He handed back my license and said I could go. WHAT A RELIEF!

As I was leaving, the gate attendant came inside again

and informed the officer, "There's more violet people outside."

In comes Carolyn and her husband Alan. I hung around as she went through the same routine I just had. But when the officer asked about prizes and awards, she tells him that I always win them.

"Gee thanks, Carolyn!" I'm trying to make a clean break before the Customs guy gets curious enough to actually go through my van. He didn't, and we were out in 5 minutes.

We had a fabulous time at the Convention. Carolyn and I picked up numerous awards including, between us, the top three. So you see, Carolyn, I DON'T WIN THEM ALL!

EDITOR'S NOTE: to see one of the B-Man's outstanding plants, turn to page 36.

From "Chatter", publication of the AVS of Canada



LEAF SUPPORT RINGS

Give your violets a spruced up look. Keep the leaves from touching and being damaged by rough pot edges. Excellent for training show plants to perfect symmetry. Made of green plastic. Each comes with a rubber band which is what holds the ring onto the pot. Slides on from the bottom of the pot. Instructions included. Three sizes:

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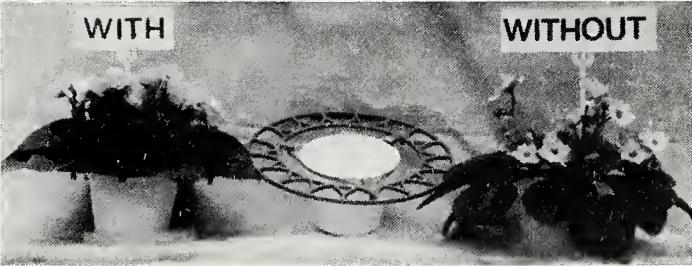
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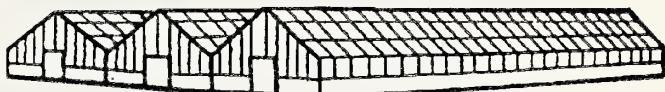


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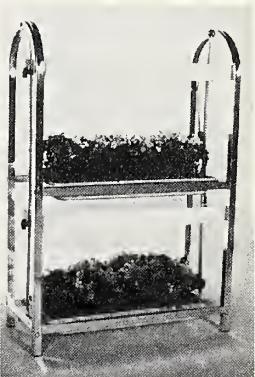
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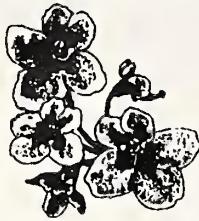
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2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub, Std. Sq.	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.35	3.30	6.00	11.40	52.00
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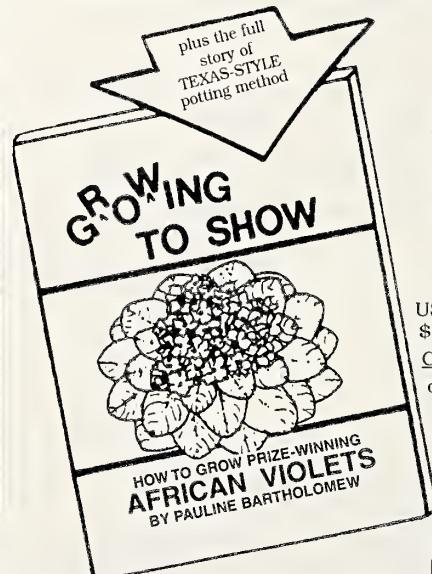
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3"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.30	2.50	5.20	9.60	45.00
3 1/2"	Wh/Gr	RT/SQ	1.50	3.15	6.60	12.20	57.00
4"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/SQ	1.95	3.50	7.30	13.40	63.00
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5"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	2.90	5.80	12.10	22.40	105.00
6"	Wh/Gr	RT/RS/PP	3.75	7.40	15.50	28.50	134.00
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8"	Wh/Gr	1.50	7.35	13.30	29.75
10"	Wh/Gr	2.10	9.50	18.15	42.35
12"	Wh/Gr	3.00	13.50	25.00	50.00

DETACHED SAUCERS - White Only

Size	Color	CLEAR SAUCERS			
		10	15	20	25
4"	Wh	2.35	4.50	9.25	17.00
5"	Wh	2.70	4.75	10.25	19.00
SNAP-ON SAUCERS FOR PANS				8"	5.10
5"	Wh/Gr	2.00	3.75	8.00	15.00
6"	Wh/Gr	2.10	4.00	9.25	19.00
6.5"	Wh/Gr	2.75	5.30	12.00	24.00
8"	Wh/Gr	3.10	6.00	14.50	29.00
10"	Wh/Gr	6.00	11.50	26.00	50.00

PLASTIC TRAYS

	Color	1	10
#2 Starter 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D No holes	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
#3 Flat WITH holes 22" L x 11 1/2" W x 2 1/4" D	Bl	\$1.75	\$15.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 17 1/2" L x 4" W x 1" D	Clr	\$1.25	\$11.00
Windowsill Plant Tray 19 1/2" L x 6" W x 1.75" D	Clr	\$1.75	\$15.00

MISCELLANEOUS

CAPILLARY MATTING - (Black Vatex) 4 feet wide 4 sq. ft \$1.60

PLANT LABELS 3" 100/\$1.25, 1000/\$10.00 4" 100/\$1.75, 1000/\$15.00

Call 1-800-377-8466 To Order

OYAMA "TEXAS STYLE" PLANTERS® - The Oyama Planter provides an attractive pot for Texas style culture which is a method of constant watering and feeding. Features a nice rolled edge.

Size	Color	1	10	25	100
1 1/2"	Wh	\$2.05	\$14.50	\$22.50	\$60.00
2 1/2"	Wh/Gr	2.70	21.00	33.75	90.00
4"	Wh/Gr	3.80	25.00	45.00	125.00
5"	Wh/Gr	4.75	31.00	50.00	150.00
6"	Wh	5.95	41.00	76.25	245.00

MOIST-RITE PLANTERS - Attractive double walled, self-watering planter.

Size	Color	1	5	12	24
5" square	Wh/Gr/Bl	\$4.50	\$25.00	\$38.00	\$68.00

WATER-RESERVOIRS FOR WICK WATERING

Wicks not supplied -1/2 price for containers or lids only

Size	10	20	50	100
8 oz.	\$4.00	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$35.00
16 oz.	5.25	9.50	21.00	36.00
32 oz.	7.50	14.00	30.00	57.00



Crystal Clear Reservoirs -Very attractive alternative to traditional reservoirs

Size	1	5	10	25
To Fit Micro	\$1.20	\$5.00	\$9.20	\$21.25
To Fit 2"	2.25	9.40	17.25	39.80
To Fit 2.5-3.5"	3.60	15.00	27.60	63.00
To Fit 3 1/2-4"	3.75	15.60	28.75	66.00



LEAF SUPPORTS - By J.F. Industries

Size	1	5	10	25	50
6" fits to 3" pot	\$1.00	\$4.75	\$9.00	\$20.25	\$38.25
9" fits to 5" pot	1.20	5.75	11.00	24.75	46.75
12" fits to 5" pot	1.50	7.35	14.00	31.50	59.50
15" fits to 8" pot	2.40	11.00	21.00	47.25	89.25
18" fits to 8" pot	2.60	11.55	22.00	49.50	93.50

POTTING MATERIALS

VIOLET HOUSE SOILLESS MIX - Mix of peat, perlite, vermiculite, lime, and Peters African Violet Special	1 gal.	\$2.00
FINE SEEDING MIX - Similar to SOILLESS MIX but contains no fertilizer (close to Jiffy-7 pellets)	1 gal.	\$2.00
PERLITE - Acerates soil (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
VERMICULITE - Holds moisture (course or fine)	1 gal.	\$2.00
CANADIAN PEAT - Milled	2 gal.	\$3.00
DOLOMITE LIME - Sweetens mix	2 lb.	\$1.75
GRANNY'S BLOOMER (0-6-5)	2 oz./\$1.75	6 oz./\$3.25
SCHULTZ "INSTANT" LIQUID (10-15-10)	5.5 oz./\$3.00	12 oz./\$4.50
SUPERTHRIVE	1 oz./\$3.75	2 oz./\$4.75
PETERS FERTILIZER		
AFRICAN VIOLET SPECIAL (12-36-14)	8 oz.	\$3.00
VARIEGATED SPECIAL (5-50-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00
PEAT-LITE SPECIAL (15-16-17)	8 oz.	\$3.00
BLOSSOM BOOSTER/ORCHID (10-30-20)	8 oz.	\$3.00
HOUSE PLANT SPECIAL (15-30-15)	8 oz.	\$2.00
GENERAL PURPOSE (20-20-20)	8 oz.	\$2.00
DYNA GRO FERTILIZER		
Dyna Gro -7-9-5	11 oz.	\$6.25
	16 oz.	\$8.50
Dyna Gro 3-12-6 Blossom Booster	11 oz.	\$6.25
	16 oz.	\$9.75
INSECTICIDES / FUNGICIDES		
SCHULTZ-INSTANT INSECT SPRAY	24 oz.	\$7.75
SYSTEMIC HOUSEPLANT - Insecticide granules	5 oz.	\$5.00
MALATHION 50	8 oz.	\$4.50
ROOTONE F - Rooting compound	.4 oz./\$2.00	2 oz./\$4.25
CONCERN INSECTICIDAL SOAP -Ready to use Concentrate	12 oz.	\$4.75
	24 oz.	\$10.50
1600-X-CLUDE	16 oz.	\$8.50

Please send orders / Catalog requests to:

THE VIOLET HOUSE, Dept. AV

P.O. Box 393, Evinston, FL 32633

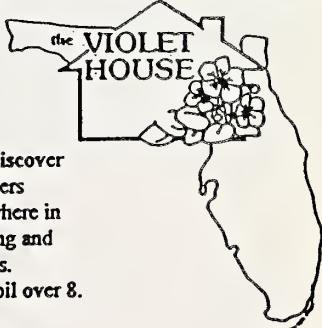
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- We accept Checks, VISA, Master Card, Discover

- Please add an additional \$5.00 for COD orders

- Orders shipped by UPS. We will ship anywhere in the Contiguous 48 States for a \$5.50 shipping and handling fee. Actual costs for all other areas.

- A \$.75 fee will be charged for each gal of soil over 8.



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We hunted and shopped; Until our feet nearly dropped.
 Looking for the special wish; But not needed was another dish.
 So we decided on an AVSA membership,
 A long lasting gift for a year,
 No more exhausting shopping to fear.

African Violet Accessories Shipped Promptly The Year Round



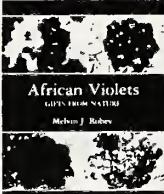
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Beautiful new book contains 42 color photos, 150 black and white, many illustrations and charts. Learn how to identify insect problems and gain knowledge on how to select the proper pesticide for eradication. Detailed chapters on proper potting, watering, lighting, propagation, hybridizing, and seed. A real textbook 8 1/2" x 11" all you ever need to know about African violets at your fingertips. Truly a masterpiece ... \$45.00 ppd.



*Insect and Mite
Pests of
African Violets*



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A factual book by Dr. Charles Cole relating to basic principles of pest control. Helps you to be proficient in detecting, identifying and controlling pests on African violets. 16 colorful pictures depicting insect damage on plants, pest charts and table of measures included \$12.00 with any order, separately add \$1.95 postage.

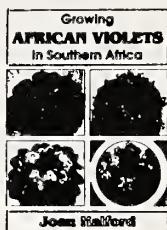
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A fascinating basic method promoting every facet of home or greenhouse growing. Containing 33 color photos, over 100 vivid illustrations displaying how to propagate cuttings, hybridize and grow seed.

Shown are leaf and blossom types, pests and eradication methods, Texas Potting and capillary matting, feeding, watering and humidity requirements.

An excellent glossary and index provide continuity and fundamentals for success ... \$16.95 postpaid



TABLETOP ADJUSTABLE FIXTURES

This tabletop adjustable fixture is available in two sizes. Fixture height is easily adjusted from 1" to 24" on the sturdy 1" square welded aluminum legs. White aluminum fixtures complete with wide spectrum tubes, 2-wire cord and on/off line switch.

MODEL TT220WS...TABLETOP FIXTURE with 2-20 watt Gro-Lux Wide spectrum tubes, 24" length ... \$65.95 ppd.

MODEL TT240WS...TABLETOP FIXTURE with 2-40 watt Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes, 38" length ... \$75.95 ppd.



4-TRAY LITE STAND...Fabricated from 1" square aluminum tubing. They are easy to assemble with a screwdriver. These stands are sturdy, yet attractive. The unit comes complete with four plastic tan trays and four double light fixtures with Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with the new slide adjustment. Overall size 70" high x 26" length x 12" depth. Shipped by UPS prepaid.
 4-Tray Lite Stand...Aluminum finish \$319.00 ppd.
 4-Tray Lite Stand...Brwn finish \$339.00 ppd.



DANDY POTS

DANDY POT ... 4", 16 ounce transparent reservoir wick planter, made of fade resistant plastics, simple to use wick watering system. Easy to fill reservoir which comes apart for cleaning. Available in green, lavender, pink, purple and white ... \$6.99 with any order, specify color



NEW IDEAL! SQUATTY 4" PLASTIC POTS, ... comes complete with easy detachable matching saucer, available in white or green ... 69¢ each, or Special of 6 for \$3.95, with any order.

TINARI AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING MEDIUM - Properly blended growing medium - the same used in our greenhouse operation, pH of about 6.4, packaged ready to ship in:

12 Quart Poly Bag Zone 0-1-2 \$12.95 ppd.
 12 Quart Poly Bag Zone 3-4-5 \$13.95 ppd.
 12 Quart Poly Bag Zone 6-7-8-9 \$14.95 ppd.

(First number of your zip code indicates you should use.)

HANDCRAFTED 2-PIECE SELF-WATERING CERAMIC POT

STYLE CSW-1

Height 4-1/2" overall
 Width 7" overall
 Pot Size For 3" or 4" pots
 Price \$14.95 ppd

STYLE CSW-2

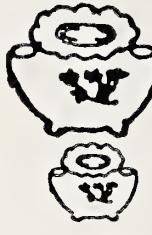
Height 3-1/4" overall
 Width 5-1/2" overall
 Pot Size For 2-1/4" or 3" pots
 Price \$10.95 ppd

STYLE CSW-MINI

(for miniatures & semiminatures)
 Height 3-1/4" overall
 Width 4-3/4" overall
 Pot Size Minis
 Price \$8.95 ppd

STYLE CSW-MM (Micromini)

NEW - especially for Microminis
 Height 2-1/4"
 Width 3-1/2" overall
 Price \$6.95 ppd



2-piece ceramic self-watering footed pots. Choose from 20 sparkling colors in deep lavender, lilac, Robin's egg blue, mint green, deep blue, pink, sesame, dark green, gray, and white. Attractive violet cluster glazed decal decoration on both sides. (Please state 2nd color choice.) These pots can be watered from side holes to the reservoir or removed to refill reservoir. Helps to avoid overwatering and very convenient for people who must be away for periods of time.

CERAMIC CONCH SHELL

Self-watering 2-piece ceramic conch shell. A novel way to display and grow your most beautiful violets. Shell measures 8" in diameter, 4" high, suitable for 2 1/2" to 3" pot. Available in four sparkling colors with Mother-Of-Pearl overlay ... soft shell peach, light blue, lilac and white ... \$14.95 ppd



CERAMIC AFRICAN VIOLET POT - 4" white or lilac ceramic pot with separate saucer and attractive violet decal. Perfect decorative pot for your African violets \$5.95 with any order.

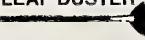
"SUCKER PLUCKER" - tempered steel blades - straight and curved. Sharp edges for easy plucking, natural finish, hardwood handle ... \$3.49 each ppd.

"LEAF DUSTER" - fan shaped brush of pure natural bristle, great for hairy leaf varieties ... \$4.95 each ppd.

SPECIAL: One of each ... \$7.95 ppd.



LEAF DUSTER



G22A...COMPACT LITE STAND - 2 Shelf stand is fabricated from 1" square aluminum tubing, easily assembled. This stand is a sturdy, attractive propagating unit. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with new slide adjustment. Complete with trays, fixtures and 2-20 watt Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes. Overall size 40" high, 27" long, 12" deep. Shipped prepaid via UPS ... \$175.00 ppd

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